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City of Decatur

Written by

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth
and Ninth Grade Pupils *of the*

Decatur Public
Schools



DEDICATION

We the pupils of the Decatur Public
Schools dedicate this book to the
patrons and citizens of Decatur, Illinois

INTRODUCTION

There is so much which the schools must teach that can be gotten only from books, and in the class-room, that they tend to be detached from life. The task of learning to read, to spell, to write, to master the fundamental operations of arithmetic is so difficult and so engrossing for so many years, that both teachers and pupils find it difficult to remain sensitive to the world of reality which never finds its way into books. A natural result of application to the task of teaching and learning the rudimentary subjects of the elementary school is a habit of mind which ignores nature and institutional life about the school.

To recognize such a truth is not to minimize the importance of books, nor to disparage the far-reaching importance of teaching well the subjects referred to above. But it is to appreciate the fact that education is life and must increasingly deal with life to be vital and significant. More and more must pupils learn to look beyond books and beyond the school-room for their subject-matter worthy of study. More and more, as they advance through the grades and the high school, do they need to study nature and man—nature in field and forest and soil and stream, and man on the farm and in the city, man in his organized and institutional efforts to promote the social good which we call civilization.

Any city, any community, indeed, is a laboratory of greater or less excellence for such study. When rightly directed and pursued, such a study may be made to yield rich returns that may reenforce much conventional and traditional teaching of language, spelling, reading, numbers and geography, but more than that, it results in a habit of mind less cloistered and academic, arouses interest in adult life and institutions surrounding the school, widens sympathies, extends the mental horizon of pupils, and multiplies the school's points of contact with life in its various institutional forms.

In such a spirit, and with such a conviction, the study resulting in this book on Decatur was undertaken. Credit for the conception of this study is due Miss Sarah Mark Imboden, Supervisor of Elementary Schools in Decatur. To the whole-hearted cooperation of principals, teachers and pupils, and to the contributions made by dozens of business men and other citizens, without whose assistance and interest the study could not have been made, I make glad acknowledgment.

Any one reading the book even cursorily will find numerous errors and omissions. For them it is unnecessary to offer apologies. The reader is merely asked to keep in mind the composite and immature authorship of the book, and the limitations imposed by that fact. It would have been easy, but was not thought either wise or fair, to correct such errors as were still manifest after a section of the book left the hands of the pupils or class responsible for it.

May we not hope that this study will result in greater interest in the schools upon the part of Decatur's citizens, as truly as in greater and more intelligent interest in the city upon the part of its teachers and children?

J. O. ENGLEMAN,
Supt. of Schools.

PREFACE

In planning the work of this book to be written by our upper grade pupils, the supervisor wished to accomplish several things:

First, to assist in working out a geography project to demonstrate to the teaching body the feasibility of the problem attack in teaching and to help teachers get away from the traditional method of testing the assimilation of facts gleaned from a text book—facts which often fail to interest the child because he has not the apperceptive basis with which to interpret things remote.

Second—(a) to set up a situation which would give the child as intimate an acquaintance as possible with his own immediate environment; (b) to build up the child's concepts thru direct observation and actual experience so that he might have a more vivid and accurate mental image of that which must be gotten indirectly thru concrete readings and pictures; (c) to build up a body of principles in regard to city growth and importance which would enable him to apply the knowledge gained to other cities studied; and (d) to provide an experience appealing to the child's interest and motivating English as well as Geography.

The information was gained thru observation, study and research. Where it was not practicable to visit a factory the necessary data were gotten by the pupils writing letters to the heads of concerns listing questions they wished answered or, as in many cases, inviting the person to talk to them.

Old records, newspapers and local histories have been read in order that facts might be authentic.

The whole credit of this work is due to the intense effort put forth by the pupils stimulated and guided by the class room teacher. Not enough can be said in praise of the untiring energy, interest and enthusiasm shown upon the part of the teachers who directed the work. I feel

confident from their reactions that they as well as the pupils were engaged in "a whole-hearted purposeful unit of activity."

The value and attractiveness of the book are greatly enhanced by the art work—the cover design and tail pieces at the end of the chapters. This work was done by the Junior High School under the direction of the art supervisor, Miss Effie Pearl Imes, and the special teacher in drawing, Miss Anna Mead. One hundred copies which will be given out complimentary were hand bound by the Junior High pupils.

We have but one apology to offer. The pupils studied that which was within their immediate environment. This accounts for the fact that many industrial and commercial concerns which rank high in our community and which we would wish to include in an extensive study of Decatur, were omitted. Some assigned work which was begun was not completed due to a change of teachers.

SARAH MARK IMBODEN,
Supervisor of Elementary Grades.

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The spirit of a city is the general disposition of its citizens. This disposition is shown by the action of the people.

SPIRIT OF DECATUR

A certain salesman who had traveled much in the Central States but mostly in Illinois was asked, when he was in Decatur, where in all the states would he choose to make his home.

He said, "There are many beautiful cities in these states and many are good business towns, but taking the matter seriously, I am choosing Decatur for my home because of the splendid 'Spirit of Decatur.'"

The spirit of Decatur manifests itself in the cleanliness of the city, in the friendly co-operation between the citizens, in the lack of petty jealousies between them, and in the fact that they favor worthy improvements.

A marked characteristic of Decatur's people is cleanliness because they have been well taught that to leave paper or any other rubbish lying around is unsightly and also invites disease. The citizens take a pride in making their yards and homes attractive. Decatur's public buildings are as well kept as any others in Illinois and probably will continue to be so kept. The general clean and well-dressed appearance of the people on the street is an indication that they are engaged in profitable work and choose to look well kept.

Decatur is well noted for the fine co-operation between the citizens. This is shown in all the organizations of Decatur. They all take action on that which is progressive and good and what they do they do well. This is one of the fine things that shows the Spirit of Decatur, for it is the spirit in homes, the spirit in business, the spirit in war, and the spirit in times of peace that makes up the fine spirit of Decatur.

The people co-operate in a friendly way to secure a good city government and to make the city more beautiful. The citizens help the poor who are in need and protect the health of all. Strong prevention is used to prevent

accidents and loss from fire. The city is well lighted to prevent crime. The business men show justice in sharing their profits with the consumers.

Decatur keeps a greater per cent of her children in school from the years six to eighteen, than any city in Illinois. This shows her earnest spirit for learning. A large per cent of young men and young women leave Decatur every year to enter higher institutions of learning. It is a noticeable thing that most of these same young people return to Decatur to become permanent professional or business citizens. This speaks well for the present and the future of the city.

In Decatur there is a lack of petty jealousies among the business men. They have regard for another's reputation and do not interfere with business competitors. Commodities are offered at a fair profit to dealer and buyer.

All civic and educational clubs of the city show a progressive spirit by favoring worthy improvements. Future factories and enterprises are being investigated. The business section of the city is kept new and sanitary because old buildings are constantly being replaced by new ones. The water supply is good but the city is planning to make it better. Infant life is protected through the work of the Baby Welfare Station, the Day Nurseries, Visiting Nurse Associations, and the co-operation of careful dairymen. The life of boys and girls is made strong, physically and mentally, by the efficient schools, churches, clubs, the Y. W. C. A., the Y. M. C. A., Boy Scout and Girl Reserve organizations, and the intelligent care which the parents give to the rearing of their children.

The older citizens are leaving a rich heritage to posterity,—a city well organized as to government, well established business firms, good schools, beautiful parks, a growing university, churches with strong memberships, many and active civic clubs, up-to-date hospitals, secure banks and splendid homes. May the Spirit of Decatur use this heritage to promote a nobler, richer city in the future.



RAYMOND KILEEN 7A '20

CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF DECATUR

In taking up the subject of the history of Decatur, it is fitting that some mention be made of the hero whose name the city bears.

Stephen Decatur was born in the county of Worcester, Maryland, January 5, 1779. He was one of our first and most gallant naval officers. In his career he made many brilliant victories and was highly honored by his country. He was finally mortally wounded in a duel with Commodore Barrow. When he was dying he expressed the wish that "he would rather have fallen defending his country." The country realized the loss of this brave hero. His is a worthy name for our progressive city located in Central Illinois.

On the tenth day of April, 1829, a body of commissioners, appointed for the purpose by an act of the State Legislature, met to decide upon the location of a "seat of justice" for the then new county of Macon. As a result of their meeting a site was selected, and an order was made for the "laying off" of the town of Decatur.

The County Surveyor at that time was Benjamin R. Austin, and he, having performed his duty as ordered, returned a plat for the county seat. Under this plat, the town of Decatur, as laid out, contained twenty acres. It was bounded by Prairie Street on the north, by Water Street on the east, by Wood Street on the south, and by Church Street on the west. It was divided by the intersection of the two main streets, one running east and west, and the other street running north and south.

This square received various names, but that which interests us is how it came to be called Lincoln Square.

There was a time when Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest men in the history of the United States, split rails and worked in and around Decatur. The few years he lived here he worked for a Mr. Shepherd, who owned a farm just

west of Church Street, and north of Main Street, which street was then known as the Springfield road.

One day while Lincoln was plowing with a yoke of oxen he heard cheering coming from "The Square," so he put his plow and oxen into one corner of the field and, leaping over the fence, he went to the square to investigate.

He found a man who was a Democrat standing in a wagon talking to the people about the Whig party, to which Lincoln belonged. Now, although Lincoln had not received a school education, he had interested himself in the affairs of his country, and had read a great deal. As a result, he had "lined up" with the Whig party. He was so impressed by the speech which he heard, and so aggravated at the gibes which the speaker threw at his party, that when the speech was finished he sprang upon the splinty stump of an old tree and made his first political speech, strongly upholding the Whig party. The knot of listeners was held spellbound, and afterwards cheered him heartily.

Thus "the square" became known as Lincoln Square, and to this day it bears the name of the great statesman, Abraham Lincoln.

There was no Merchant Street at that time, and the lots ran east and west as laid out.

The land upon which the county seat was located was, according to an act of the Legislature, donated to the county by the owners, and they made a deed to the County Commissioners on Oct. 8, 1831.

Previous to this time, a sale of town lots had been ordered, and the clerk of the County Court was instructed to advertise the sale in a paper printed in Vandalia, which was then the state capital.

In this connection it is interesting to note what the rate of taxation was to be, and the things taxed. A tax of one-half per cent was levied on pleasure carriages, on distilleries, on stock in trade, on horses, mares, mules, asses, and neat cattle over three years old; on watches with their appendages; on slaves and indentured or registered negro or mulatto servants; and on all personal property except the

lawful firearms of each individual. This tax when collected amounted to \$109.32½. Tavern rates were also fixed. For breakfast and horse feed, it cost \$0.37½; keeping man and horse each night cost \$0.62½; brandy, rum, gin, wine or cordial, \$0.25 per pint; whiskey or cider brandy, \$0.12½ per half pint.

Every person who conducted any sort of trade had to secure a license for which he was charged from three to five dollars.

Another method of raising revenue to meet county expenses was to grant licenses and to fix rates for establishing ferries on the river.

In February of 1851 an act was passed whereby counties were authorized to adopt the system of township organization upon a petition and vote of the people. Eight years later the County Court appointed commissioners to divide the county into townships. Decatur became the fifth.

It would be interesting to tell of the early courts because one of the events of the year was court day. Nearly everybody came to town to see and hear what was going on. There were no shows or circuses. When court closed for the day, to convene the next day at six in the morning, lawyers, judges and citizens all got together in old taverns where stories were told and conversations held. These were said to be very entertaining, and no doubt they were, since such men as Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were among those who practiced law at the Macon County bar and became famous in national history.

Although it may seem strange the log cabin which stands in Fairview Park was Decatur's first court house. It was there that Abraham Lincoln studied law. As nearly as can be found in the records, the work of this building was started about 1829. In the latter part of the 1830's it was replaced by a brick court house, so the years of actual service were few.

It was supposed to have stood in the southeast corner of the square, but the opinions of the old settlers differ, and being unable to find anyone who knows definitely where it

stood, we will not state where, other than on Lincoln Square.

After the log cabin was no longer of use as a court house, it was sold to Robert Allen, who, several years afterwards, moved it to his farm southeast of Decatur. Later the land was bought by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Clokey, who, when they learned the history of the building, turned it over to the Old Settlers' Association, the members of which moved it to Fairview Park. It still stands there and has been so repaired that it may be used.

The Boy Scouts have been using it for some time and the condition of the cabin is such that it may be used for some years yet.

Decatur's second court house was built of brick. It was two stories high and about forty feet square. It stood on the southeast corner of Lincoln Square and was built between 1838 and 1840. It had a roof that sloped up from all sides and in the center was a cupola which had a railing around it so from its top a good view of the town could be seen.

In 1870 the need of a larger building was felt, as the county had grown much larger. The brick court house being only a small one would no longer be of any use. Rooms were rented in the Powers building and here a part of the business of the county was carried on until 1892, when the present Court House was occupied.

Decatur's present Court House stands on the southeast corner of Wood and Water Streets. It was built of rough gray stone in 1891, the cost being about one hundred thousand dollars. It is three stories high and has a large tower on the corner. The tower, which is quite high, offers a good view of the city. On the tower is a clock which has a bell that used to strike the hours, but it is now out of repair.

The first floor is used mostly for office purposes. The most important offices on the first floor are those of the Treasurer, the State's Attorney, Overseer of the Poor, Sheriff and the Police Department.

The second floor consists of the Circuit Clerk's office, the County Clerk's office, Judge McCoy's office, County Court room, and the County Abstract office.

The third floor is made up of the Circuit Court room, the judges' offices, jury rooms, grand jury rooms, and the County Superintendent's office.

The large Court House is one of the attractive buildings of Decatur. The jail and the sheriff's house join the Court House thus making it a very large building to look at.

When one stops to realize the importance of jails as a matter of protection to the community, and as a source for prevention of crime, one realizes their necessity.

Decatur as the county seat of Macon County has been the site of three jails. The first, a building about twelve feet square, with two rooms, one above the other, and of hewed logs about twelve inches square, was erected in November, 1832, on the northwest corner of Water and Prairie streets. It was later moved to the northwest corner of Wood and Church streets, where, four years after it was destroyed by fire.

The second jail, which was built in 1843 on the same corner, was of brick, two stories high, and contained two cells.

The third one, in use now, was built in 1868 at a cost of forty-five hundred dollars, is of stone. It is fifty feet long and forty feet wide, and contained twenty-four cells. Later a large addition was made.

In direct contradiction to jails, let us turn briefly to the mention of churches.

Following soon upon the settlement of Decatur by pioneers came churches. Religious services were held at first in the cabins of the settlers, at which time church societies were formed, and these led to the founding of churches. Among these was the First Methodist Episcopal, which was the first to be erected. This one was followed by many others, until today the city of Decatur is reasonably proud of these organizations and their spirit of unity in the work for which they are organized.

Since the schools are to be considered in detail elsewhere we will not go into that subject more than to say that from a small beginning Decatur has developed a school system of which it is justly proud, one which is of great and permanent benefit to our city.

It must not be thot that Decatur prospered from its beginning, for it is true that adverses were met with. In 1848 when the banks suspended specie payments, the money everywhere was in a serious state. People staggered under great public debts, shattered homes and financial ruin. They were seized with a panic, and Decatur was despondent. No new residents came in for several years, and as many as could do so "took the trail" for California in search of gold.

In 1851, however, when the Illinois Central Railroad was incorporated, the State Legislature authorized the construction of a road from La Salle to Cairo, with branches. In 1854 this road was completed thru Decatur, and soon open for traffic. The construction also of the now Wabash Railroad made Decatur a central point thru which very much traffic began to pass. Thus it was that the town took on new life, as a result of the influx of new business, new enterprises, and new people.

It is said that the advancement of Decatur dates from the day on which the first train entered Decatur. It was really the commencement of the city of Decatur, because it was then that Decatur's material advancement and improvement began. Agriculture developed because of the opening up of prairie farms, and a real settlement started. With it came a beginning of manufacturing institutions, an original one now remaining being the Mueller Manufacturing Company. The Morehouse & Wells establishment, partly industrial and partly commercial, had its beginning in 1859. During this prosperous period three banks were added to Decatur.

As early as 1874, business men in Decatur felt positive that coal existed here, so they formed an association to discover it. Their faith proved well founded, for on a plot of

ground in northeast Decatur coal was discovered. Two or three years after, the Decatur Coal Company sank a shaft there, and later another on Broadway. Since then the Macon County Coal Company has also operated a shaft, so that we have at least three, all of which supply coal to a large territory.

Among the things of interest and profit to Decatur is the free public library.

Richard L. Evans was appointed first librarian and held that position until his death, November 17, 1881. His wife, Alice G. Evans, was appointed his successor, and still holds the place.

The library was on the second floor of the Schroeder building on East Prairie Street until it was turned over to the city, October 5, 1881. It was next housed in the Orlando Powers building over the Linn & Scruggs store. In 1889 it was moved to new quarters in the building erected by Roberts and Greene, known as the Library Block, on the northeast corner of North Main and William Streets. February 2, 1892, it was destroyed by fire.

Temporary quarters were secured in the old Presbyterian church until October of the same year, when the library was moved into the old quarters in the Library Block. On May 11, 1898, it was moved into the fifth story of the Orlando Powers block, where it remained until May, 1903, when it was transferred to its present home in the Carnegie Building. This structure was erected at an expense of sixty thousand dollars donated in 1901 to the city of Decatur by Andrew Carnegie, on the condition that the city appropriate a stipulated sum of money each year to the support of the library.

The transfer house is one of the unique features of Decatur.

After the street cars were changed from horse cars to electric cars, and more lines were built, the passengers had no place to wait for their cars. Lincoln Square being the regular transfer place, the city concluded to build a transfer house for two purposes, one for the passengers to wait

for their cars, and the other for a band stand. The band gave concerts on the Lincoln Square at that time.

An old watering trough that was on Lincoln Square was removed, and the transfer house built. All the cars that came on to Lincoln Square at that time, except the Riverside cars, circled around the transfer house.

By having this building, Decatur has one of the best accommodations for the public of any city I know. It would be greatly missed if taken away, especially in the winter, as it is a shelter from the cold. It is also a great comfort to women with little children, as they can sit down and rest while waiting for their cars.

My informant has been in many large cities, and says he has never been in a city where they have the convenience for changing street cars that is in Decatur. Since there are so many cars and so much travel on Lincoln Square, a band stand has been erected in Central Park, and the transfer house is not used for concerts any more.

The Pratt Cereal Oil Mill Company was organized in 1902 in Decatur. It had a stock of four hundred fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of extracting oil from corn. The plant had five buildings in Decatur, in the east part of the city, having a frontage on the Wabash railroad. The group of buildings was second only to the Millikin University. It was the first cereal oil mill in the United States. The buildings covered about two blocks. One hundred cars of machinery were placed in the plant. Two miles of pipe and four hundred fifty valves were used. They had a storage room where one hundred thousand gallons of oil and one hundred thousand gallons of naphtha were stored. The output a day was twenty-five thousand gallons of oil and three hundred tons of feed. The raw material used is the waste from the hominy mills; also the hominy chips and the germ are used. The hominy chip has about one hundred per cent oil and the germ two hundred forty per cent oil. Three hundred tons of waste are consumed every day. The oil is extracted from the corn by grinding, then steeping it in a solvent that assimilates the corn from the

oil. The corn oil is separated from the solution by distillation. The solvent is condensed and stored while the corn oil is passed through filter presses to take away the starch and other substances. It is then ready for use. The oil is used in paint, soaps and in making salads.

The first cross-wire check rower was made and patented by George D. Haworth. The Chambers, Bering & Quinlan Company first manufactured it. It has proven successful as a mechanical device and as a money maker.

The first planing mill was located at 546 East Cerro Gordo Street. It was owned by George S. Lyon. A few years ago the building was destroyed by fire. A new building was erected made of bricks. It was two stories high and covered thirty thousand three hundred twenty-four feet. It extends to the Wabash railroad and faces North Broadway and Cerro Gordo Streets. Later a brick wall one story high was built around the entire yard. The firm manufactures sashes, doors, window casings and furnishing for stores and public buildings. It has the latest machinery, five wagons, and employs fifty men.

The first opera house was situated in the one hundred block on Merchant Street. It was called Macon Hall and seated between four and five hundred people, and had a stage and scenery. It soon became too small for the city and in 1869 the Smith's Opera House was built on Water Street. This also soon became too small, so in 1888 they decided to build a larger and a finer opera house. The Powers Grand Opera House was built in the one hundred block, South Water, and seated about one thousand six hundred people. Following the destruction by fire of the Powers Building, the present theater was constructed on North Main Street. It has been the scene of many famous plays by equally famous players.

Decatur has had many bad fires. The most costly one as far as anyone knows was the Powers fire, the time the entire Powers block burned. This happened April 17, 1914, about midnight. The whole block was destroyed and a

handsome one has been rebuilt. Linn and Scruggs is now located in the block and also the Orlando Hotel.

Although there were many other fires, such as Morehouse & Wells' fire, which happened in the year 1910, the Decatur and Arcade hotels burned in April, 1915, just one year later than that of the Powers block. It seemed rather strange to have the two fires come just one year apart. The only thing that saved the other buildings in the block in which the Decatur Hotel was, was that they were fireproof and stood the test. It seemed a miracle. Later there were other fires. The Scovill fire is the only important one so far.

Since the Powers block and the Decatur and Arcade hotel fires were the largest, I will discuss them first. The cause of the Powers fire was never found out, but many believe incendiarism to be the cause of the fire. The whole block was completely destroyed. Linn and Scruggs', in the Powers block, has been destroyed by fire three times. They were first located on Lincoln Square; later they moved to the site where they now are. The Powers block is located one block east of the transfer house on the southeast corner. The Orlando Hotel is on the opposite corner. The Powers Theatre was also located in that block before it burned. It was the only opera house in town, but when it burned the hotel was built in its place. The Lincoln Square Theatre is now where the Arcade and Decatur hotels were, on North Main Street. The time before the last fire at Linn and Scruggs', the goods were hauled while the building was burning, in wagons. The people that lived across the street from the fire were constantly out with their hoses watching if any burning articles fell on the house and caught fire. The last Powers fire caused many other fires from articles sent into the air from the pressure of the walls falling in. They would sail out over the city, burning and falling on houses, catching the roofs on fire.

The Arcade and Decatur hotels were caught on fire about eleven or twelve o'clock at night. A carnival was in town at that time and a carnival man was coming in to his room. When he reached the hotel it was in flames. He

quickly called the fire department. They think the fire was caused by an explosion, though no one knows for sure. It burned rapidly and by two o'clock the fire was still worse than ever. Burning boards and articles were sent sailing through the air. These falling caused many people to worry, but a slight rain came in the early morning and people ceased to worry. The Y. M. C. A. building was badly damaged, as the rear end came up behind the hotels. The articles such as shingles, tar roofing and other things in the yard were in great quantities and everything was covered with them. The only thing that saved the rest of the buildings in that block is that they were fireproof. The way they stood amidst the flames was wonderful and a great relief to the owners. Bachman's store was the one that stood the test and in the morning at eight the store was open for business.

The Scovill fire was in September, 1917. It was a one-store fire, but it seemed as though it was caged in. It was the only building in the block that burned. It was started on Sunday night, supposedly by some one in the basement Sunday evening with a lighted candle. He threw the lighted match into a box of excelsior which is supposed to have been the cause of the fire. It burned from the basement up thru the middle of the building and all the furniture in the floors above fell into the basement, one piece on top of the other. The walls did not fall and part of the roof remained.

The basement was submerged in ten or twelve feet of water and it took hours to draw the water out so they could get to things. They brought out much slightly damaged furniture and Scovill's kept business up with fire sales until the building was constructed.

Fires are slowly dying out now and there have been no important ones since Scovill's fire.

Decatur's citizens never failed to respond when there was a call "to arms."

In the Black Hawk war, patriotic citizens responded to the Governor's call and enlisted both to protect the frontier

and to preserve the honor of the state. They left Decatur on June 4, 1832, and went into camp on the site where Monticello, Illinois, now stands. From there they proceeded to the Indian village of Kickapoo, which they found deserted. As they had enlisted for only sixty days they returned home, tho they were instructed to hold themselves in readiness. However, after one hundred thirteen days of service, they were discharged, each man receiving for his services fifty-two dollars and one hundred sixty acres of land.

When war was declared by Mexico in May, 1846, again the call for volunteers came, and again our citizens responded. A company was formed—Company C—which marched from Decatur to Springfield in June, 1846, where a regiment was formed. From there they went to Alton, thence to Jefferson Barracks, where they were thoroughly disciplined and drilled. After being moved numerous times they were ordered to Vera Cruz in February, 1847, where they assisted in constructing batteries and bombarding that city, which surrendered March 29, 1847. They then marched for the City of Mexico, met Santa Anna en route and fought a battle. Eventually Company C returned home by way of New Orleans and St. Louis, arriving June 1, 1847, bringing with them a banner which our citizens had given them when they left. Upon their arrival home they were greeted—as war heroes should be—with great enthusiasm.

Of course the Civil War reached Decatur, and a few of its veterans are still with us to tell us of its horrors, hardships and results. War was declared, as we know, by President Lincoln, as a last resort, to save the Union, and when the call for volunteers came Decatur was not behind in doing its share. And when at last the struggle was over, and the South laid down her arms, in the city of Decatur a band of patriotic veterans of the Civil War met and organized what is called the Grand Army of the Republic.

They had learned the lessons the war had taught and wished to impress them upon the minds of the people so that they never would be forgotten.

On the morning of April —, 1866, the people were greatly puzzled on seeing the letters G. A. R. in many windows. A dozen men or more smiled to themselves because of the wonder they had created.

On the preceding night they had met at 253 South Park Street, Decatur, and made that their headquarters. When these mysterious letters appeared the dozen men who had smiled to themselves explained to the people that this was the name of an organization which consisted of twelve members—J. W. Bishop, J. W. Routh, John H. Hale, C. Rieb-same, A. Toland, M. F. Kanan, George H. Dunning, Col. S. C. Pugh, Joseph M. Prior, I. N. Coltrin, George R. Steele and Dr. B. F. Sibley. These men were the only members at that time.

The idea of thus organizing was to unite the soldiers of the Union into a Grand Army of the Republic. This was to protect peace, as the soldiers had protected the nation's rights.

Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, who had been a surgeon in the army, organized the G. A. R. April 6, 1866, and gave it its name.

In 1868, the G. A. R. of Decatur was broken up and one by one the members dropped out. The reason was General Grant, the greatest officer of the army, was running for the presidency. Different men had different opinions and politics were brought into the G. A. R.

In 1882 it was reorganized and named after Amos Dunham because he was the first man of Macon County to lose his life in the Civil War. The organization was prosperous and had seven hundred and fifty members.

When all the G. A. R. organizations in the state had disbanded, Rockford was the only one whose organization had kept together. So when the others started to organize again Rockford was given the number Post 1. Where before Decatur had been Post 1, now it was called Dunham Post No. 141. What was Decatur's loss was Rockford's gain.

In two years' time the G. A. R. of Decatur increased from twelve members to eighty members.

In 1890, which was called "Banner Year," the total membership was four hundred nine thousand four hundred fifty-nine.

When the fiftieth anniversary was observed in 1916, in the city of Decatur, there were less than one hundred and seventy-one thousand three hundred and thirty members.

But the close of the Civil War did not grant surcease from war. When our nation was aroused to activity to avenge Spain's insult to the nation's flag by the destruction of the warship Maine in the harbor of Havana in 1898, troops which were called for by President McKinley responded nobly and performed excellent service for their country. It was at that time that we learned to know with pride our Company H, and these were the boys who helped to free Cuba from the galling yoke of Spanish tyranny!

When the World War came on, again it fell to us to take up arms in behalf of humanity, and once more our heroes went out from Decatur to enter into a struggle to make democracy safe. We know with what honor they acquitted themselves, how they lifted the torch high, how they kept faith with those who died! Our Honor Roll board, erected on the west side of Central Park facing the street, that all who look may read, constantly keeps in our minds these boys.

It is only a small token of appreciation shown by the city of Decatur and Macon County for the boys who were willing to lay down their lives that we might have peace and freedom.

The city has also placed electric lights on the board so it can easily be seen after night. Our park superintendent has a beautiful Red Cross out of red foliages in front of the board to add more to the beauty of the location and to the meaning.

There is a gold star placed at the end of each name of those who lost their lives while serving in the service of the United States of America. Not all of the names of the Decatur and Macon County boys who served in the United States service are on the board because it was not large

enough. The names are placed in alphabetical order, so if you have a relative or friend whose name is on the roll, you may easily find it in a very short time.

There are hundreds of people a day who stop and look at the board, to many of whom a glance at a name brings great memories.

We are proud of our Honor Roll and prouder of our boys, but we hope we will never have to erect another for the cause of war!

During the Civil War the Decatur Hospital Aid Society had been meeting one day each week to sew for the soldiers.

They were awakened to the new work ahead of them by a note sent to Mrs. Johns by Mrs. Slaughter of the Depot Hotel saying that in thirty minutes fifty hungry, sick and wounded soldiers would arrive at the station.

Messenger boys were sent all over town with notes telling the ladies to be at the depot by five o'clock with baskets of food for the soldiers. Tin cups were borrowed from the hardware store and two pounds of genuine coffee were bought.

By five o'clock there were about thirty women at the station with hot buttered rolls, cold meats, pies, cakes, pickles and gallons of milk and cream for the soldiers. A telegram had been sent to Centralia requesting that the soldiers would not leave their seats when the train arrived in Decatur.

When the train arrived in Decatur two ladies passed down the aisle with tin cups followed by two more with coffee. Other ladies followed these with milk, cream and sugar. Then the food was passed.

A meeting of the Aid Society was held and seventeen dollars was appropriated to buy food for appeasing the hunger of the sick soldiers passing through the city. A committee was appointed to see to the expenditure of it.

It was soon seen that the work could not go on smoothly unless it was systematized, so a committee was organized to bring order out of chaos.

One of the first things they did was to make arrangements with the station master to telegraph the number of soldiers coming. This notice was sent to Mrs. Hayes and the arrangements were made accordingly.

The committee also bought two sacks of flour. One of these was sent to Mrs. Winholtz for yeast bread, and the other was sent to Mrs. Hayes, who always had luck with salt rising. These ladies pledged themselves to supply the bread. Coffee, sugar and butter were bought and stored in a vacant room in the hotel. Three dozen tin cups, a five gallon coffee pot, six pitchers, and a box of tin spoons were donated. Ten quires of heavy brown paper were bought and cut into squares to serve as plates. Mrs. Slaughter always had boiling water on hand and a committee made the coffee and buttered the bread. The town was divided into four sections, each in turn furnishing the "extras."

1917-18

The Canteen Service for the World War period was organized in Decatur by Mrs. Dr. Dudley, but when she left town Mr. Culver was made president. It was organized under the Red Cross and the food, cups, etc., were paid for out of the funds of the Red Cross.

The ladies were divided up into squads, each having its own turns serving the soldiers. And be it said to their glory that they performed their duties and stuck to their posts like soldiers!

A history of Decatur to be complete should contain some mention of those pioneer settlers who not only helped to preserve the nation's honor, or served the country in some capacity. Indeed, there are few who did not do the latter. We have to our credit those who became historically famous, chief amongst whom are Abraham Lincoln, so rightfully called "a masterpiece of God"; Richard J. Oglesby, who served as major-general in the Civil War, as a United States Senator, and three times as Governor of Illinois; General Isaac C. Pugh, hero in the Black Hawk War, the Mexican War and the Civil War; General Jesse H. Moore,

who earned the rank of brigadier, given him by President Lincoln in April, 1865, for "gallant and meritorious service on the field of battle."

As to the latter, there were many of them—lawyers, doctors, preachers, school teachers, office holders, merchants, shoemakers, tailors, cabinet makers—all of whom served in the comfort of the people and the development of Decatur, which is now a thriving city with a population close to fifty thousand, all of whom are engaged in pursuits which will tend to make our city continue to progress.



PAUL CAMPBELL 7A '20

By this time the school population had greatly increased so that it was necessary to rent the basements of the *Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches. In 1862 Enoch A. Gastman was elected principal of the schools. He received \$80 per month for a term of six months.

In 1862 it was voted to purchase the ground for a new building and levy a tax of twenty-five cents on every one hundred dollars. Plans were made to build a two-room schoolhouse on the corner of Wood and College, but on account of the unsettled conditions of the country, it was postponed until the following year. This was known as the Wood Street School.

July 8, 1863, it was voted to extend the school term to nine months. One hundred twenty-nine were in favor, and six were against.

In 1863 the High School, which had been held in the lower east room of the Church St. School, was moved to the basement of the Baptist Church, where it remained for six years.

In 1864 the Jones School was erected and later in 1911 replaced by the Oglesby School.

In 1865 General Isaac C. Pugh presented a bill in the legislature making Decatur a real school district. It was approved by Governor Oglesby, February 16, 1865. The next step was to elect a Board of Education for the new Decatur School District. This was done April 4, 1865, when David P. Bunn, William L. Hammar and C. C. Burroughs were elected. Jerome R. Gorin was appointed treasurer and E. A. Gastman clerk.

In 1866 two rooms of the Jackson St. School were built. This was the first school ordered to be built by the Board of Education.

The new board was willing to learn the needs of a city system and this year they allowed the superintendent to

*The old Methodist Church stood where Gushard's Dry Goods Store now is, on the northwest corner of Water and William; the Presbyterian where the Y. M. C. A. now is, on the southeast corner of Church and Prairie, and the Baptist where the Liberty restaurant now is, on the northeast corner of Water and William.

spend money for ink, books for *poor children and globes. Three years later they furnished pens and penholders. In 1875 they furnished examination paper and in 1888 drawing paper.

In 1867 the first two rooms of the Sangamon School were built. In the same year the first class of four girls graduated from the High School. Less than one hundred people attended these first graduation exercises, but this created a deeper interest in education.

At this time American History was introduced into the schools.

In 1868 Rev. Soules was employed to teach music in the High School at one dollar a lesson and two lessons a week. This was the beginning of music in the schools. This experiment was unsuccessful until in 1872 when Blackmen's graded song books were introduced.

In 1868 plans for a new high school were made, and the following year the building was erected. The first session began in 1869 with three teachers in charge—E. A. Gastman, Mary W. French and Miss Sargent.

During the first five years the Board of Education had been constantly realizing the needs of the school system and had built two ward schools and one high school, besides furnishing better equipment. They also had enlarged the course of study.

In 1871 the course of study was extended in the High School to four years, and no one graduated this year.

In 1880 the first two rooms of the Warren St. School were erected. Two years later the first four rooms of the Jasper St. School were built, and four years later the first four rooms of the Marietta St. School were erected. This same year telephones were installed in Sangamon, Church and Jasper St. schools.

The next year additions were made to the Jackson, Wood and Marietta St. Schools.

In 1887 Prang's drawing books were introduced and four years later Mrs. L. L. Miller was employed to supervise drawing.

*Five dollars was the most he could spend for books.

In 1888 the truant law was first enforced and each parent was notified that he must keep his children in school or be fined.

During this same year all wells were ordered to be closed up except Jackson, which was to have city water as soon as possible.

In 1891 Miss Elizabeth Kniper, the first music supervisor, was employed.

In 1892 the contract for the building of H. B. Durfee was given and in 1893 and 1894 additions were made to Warren and Jasper. In 1895 and 1896 contracts were given for the Pugh and Oakland Schools and six rooms were added to the old High School.

In 1896 the first drawing exhibit was held, which increased the interest in the new subject and made them think it was worth while.

In 1898 physical training was first introduced and Mrs. Jeanette L. Tyler, now Mrs. Gille, was the first teacher.

In 1899 an addition was made to H. B. Durfee.

By 1900 there were two four-room buildings, two six-room buildings, two eight-room buildings and High School, all having telephones, city water, steam heat and single seats. The schools had grown very much and it was more than Mr. Gastman could do to handle both the business side and educational side, so Miss Flora B. Smith was employed as supervisor of primary grades.

In 1901 Mr. Gastman was elected superintendent for his fortieth year. At this time he would have resigned, but the citizens and the board urged him to stay. He was willing to accept on one condition, that either he or the board could end his engagement at any time.

In 1903 the E. A. Gastman School was planned to replace the old Church Street School, and named in honor of Mr. Gastman.

*In 1903 Mr. Owen was appointed truant officer. He served two years and Mr. Shick took his place in 1905.

*We could find no report of a truant officer before this time. It is thought that there was one.

At this time manual training was first introduced. In the same year the West Main Street School, which was later replaced by the Dennis School, became the property of the Decatur District. The following year the contract for the Riverside School was given.

In 1907, after a term of forty-five years, Mr. Gastman resigned, and Mr. H. B. Wilson was appointed to take his place. Not many men have had the opportunity to watch one school system grow for such a length of time. During these many years he had laid the foundation of the future school system.

Owing to the sudden death of Mr. Gastman, August 3, 1907, Mr. Wilson had to assume his duties much sooner than he expected. At the end of the year Mr. Wilson said in his written report that "Mr. Gastman's work was so well organized and unified that the schools would have continued doing good strong work for some time without a superintendent."

One of the first things Mr. Wilson did was to improve the course of study. His aim was to leave out all unnecessary points in the course and emphasize the useful points which would be of help to the pupils in the future. He began by appointing a committee of teachers to revise the English course.

He also thought that boys and girls should be taught how to study, how to think for themselves and how to express their thoughts more clearly. In order to do this he believed that every child should have a good motive* to work for.

At the same time he encouraged the teachers to do advanced study. During the year seven teachers took extension work and the next summer eighteen took summer work. The following year forty-eight had taken advanced work and thirty-six had visited other schools. It was only fair that the teachers should receive more salary as a result of their efforts to progress, therefore he began to arrange a salary schedule, depending on the length of

*This was called motivation.

time spent in study and the kind of teaching done. This was put in force in 1910.

In 1907 the Civic Improvement League was organized in the High School to arouse interest in parks, playgrounds, clean streets and alleys, and in the building of more attractive homes.

In 1908 the course in the grades was lengthened from seven years to eight years. This was the beginning of the Departmental School,¹ which is now Junior High. This year a special room² for defective and backward children was opened at Jackson.

September 24, 1908, Mrs. E. A. Gastman presented to the Board of Education Mr. Gastman's library of two hundred twenty-seven volumes and thirty-seven documents. Later on there were thirty-eight volumes added and eight documents.

In 1910 improvements and additions were made to Pugh, Warren and Grammar Grade Departmental. The Dennis School was completed and the corner stone of the new High School was laid in May. In June of this year Mr. J. F. Roach resigned from the Board of Education and later was appointed the first business manager of the schools.

In 1911 and 1912 the total amount paid out for improvements, additions and equipment was \$498,791.70.

During the same year Miss Jenkins was appointed supervisor of the Elementary Grades. Miss Smith had been made supervisor of hand work in the Primary Grades.

At this time Vocational Discovery was added to the Junior High course.

May 29 to June 1, 1912, the first large annual exhibit of public school work was held.

In 1911 and 1912 the Board planned improvements in ventilation, lighting, heating, and seating. More attention

¹Departmental was first opened in the Shellabarger house—now the High School annex.

²By 1920 there were four of these rooms, one at Gastman, one at Jackson, one at Durfee, and one at High School.

was given to the physical side of school life. Children were taught the value of sleeping, eating, cleanliness and sensible clothing. Athletics, proper playgrounds and play apparatus were emphasized. They did not stop with this, but in 1910 the Board engaged Mrs. McKee as supervisor of hygiene. Her business was to visit the schools and homes and to inspect and help in any way necessary.

Her report for the first year shows:

- 128 schools visited
- 330 homes visited
- 110 children treated in the clinic
 - 17 operations for adenoids
 - 9 operations for tonsils
- 466 treatments for tonsils
- 240 ear treatments
- 812 eye treatments
- 72 nose treatments
- 40 children fitted with glasses
- Total was 1,590 treatments.

*This was called by a citizen the "biggest little work in Decatur." It has continued to grow and in 1913 and 1914 the entire management of the clinic work was turned over to the Board of Education.

In June, 1912, Mr. Wilson resigned after serving six years, and Mr. J. O. Engleman was appointed to take his place.

Mr. Engleman began by continuing the work of revising the Course of Study. He appointed committees of teachers to do this.

He also encouraged teachers to take advanced work and in 1913 and 1914 forty-eight teachers took summer work. The next year the number increased to sixty-three doing summer work and thirty-six doing extension work during the school year.

*Before the clinic had been managed by the King's Daughters of the Baptist Church, who had organized the work in 1906.

Three sewing centers were established at Roach, Warren and French. Special classes in bench work for over age and overgrown boys were ¹started at Gastman.

In 1914 the first May Fete was given at Fairview park with one thousand five hundred children taking part.

²At this time the first school paper was printed, motion pictures were introduced into the schools and agriculture was added to the High School course. The first penmanship supervisor, Miss Chapman, was employed.

In May, 1915, the second May Fete was held at Fairview park. This time three thousand two hundred children took part.

The first summer school was started this year. The High School department enrolled fifty-two and the grades fifteen. The next year, the enrollment had grown to ninety-seven in the High School and thirty-six in the grades. Later in 1917 and 1918 night school was opened at Durfee.

Improvements in buildings and grounds were continued.

The total value of improvements and additions for 1914-15 amounted to \$89,096.32.

In 1915 better English was again emphasized. This later in 1919 developed into "Better English Week."

This year more attention was given to the beautifying of the school grounds, by planting, graveling and sodding.

The last few years have been taken up with war activities. ²*With Mr. Engleman as our leader, we organized 18 Junior Auxiliaries of the Red Cross. There were 6,857 members and the total amount earned and collected was \$2002.42. ¹*We made 125 surgical dressings, 597 story books for hospitals, 336 pocket checkerboards, 800 needle, pin and thread cases, besides sweaters, wristlets, socks, quilts. At Jackson 50 rag rugs were made and the profits used for Red Cross memberships.

¹Later three other classes were formed at Durfee, Junior High and High. The same thing is being planned for in the girls' sewing.

²Review printed one half page for a different school each Sunday.

²*Mr. Engleman was Chairman of the Junior Red Cross.

¹*This is only a partial list, as no complete records have been kept.

We have also helped by buying and selling thrift and War Saving stamps, by collecting clothing for orphans, buying of liberty bonds and adopting French orphans.

Although we had been carrying on war activities, we continued our other work as well and especially our athletics. Since 1910 the athletic spirit has grown rapidly. We now have annual basketball tournaments, volley ball, baseball, track, besides athletic tests in chinning, running, jumping, hurdling, balancing, etc.

Since 1913 Mr. Engleman has spent much of his time getting the people to see that it is necessary to raise the salaries of the teachers. He has gone to Springfield to the legislature to get the representatives to vote to have a law passed to raise salaries. This year he was made chairman of a state committee to help carry out this plan.

It has been surprising to see how the schools have grown and progressed in fifty-five years, from one two-room school to fourteen ward schools, having eight to thirteen rooms, one Junior High and one High School. It has also been interesting to see how each superintendent has gone about his work, how the course of study has grown, how the methods of teaching and study have been improved, how the feeling of the community has changed towards the schools, and as a result of this how the community and the schools have become more closely related to one another.

Now, the entire educational and business force consists of

Board of Education—3 members

Superintendent—Mr. J. O. Engleman

6 Supervisors:

Supervisor of Elementary Grades—Miss Sarah Mark
Imboden

Supervisor of Penmanship—Miss Mary Baker

Supervisor of Drawing—Miss Effie Pearl Imes

Supervisor of Music—Mr. Eldon Geiger

Supervisor of Hygiene—Miss Gunhild Johnson

Supervisor of Physical Education — Miss Katherine Norris.

6 Special Teachers

2 Manual Training

2 Domestic Art

2 General Supplies

202 Teachers

6951 Boys and Girls

1 Attendance Officer—Mr. J. B. Shick

1 Business Manager—Mr. Arthur Kinkade
and Secretary to Board of Education

2 Secretaries in Business Office

2 Secretaries in Public School Office

1 Secretary to Superintendent

1 Chief Engineer

5 Engineers

20 Janitors.

Besides the public schools in Decatur, there are four parochial and two private schools. The four parochial are St. Patrick, St. James, St. Johannes and St. Paul. The two private schools are the Seven Day Adventist and St. Theresa Academy.

The St. Patrick School is controlled by the Irish Catholics. It was founded over forty-eight years ago. The enrollment for the first year was 402.

The St. James is controlled by the German Catholics. St. Johannes School was founded about 1890. The enrollment for the first year was between 70 and 80. In the first year there were two small frame buildings which served as school rooms, with two teachers.

The Seven Day Adventist School and St. Theresa's Academy are the only private schools in Decatur, besides Millikin. St. Theresa was founded in September, 1914. The present enrollment is 120. In the beginning they enrolled sixty-four.

Decatur fully realizes the responsibility which rests upon her. Therefore she strives to have better schools.

She encouraged every ¹*form of education that will make better citizens. Decatur has tried very much to be worthy of what President Roosevelt said in his dedication speech at Millikin, "²*The success or failure of our American government in the future depends upon what kind of men and women the boys and girls of today turn out to be. I congratulate you upon the evidence I have seen that you appreciate that fact and that you are training them in your homes, in the schools, and in colleges such as this."

MOTHERS' CLUBS

The Mothers' clubs alone have done more to change the feeling of the community towards the schools and to strengthen the relationship between school and home than any other organization.

The first club was organized at the Pugh School in 1905 by Miss ¹Hamilton. Their most important work was started in 1908, when with the help of several ²*prominent doctors and dentists they started the first ³*free clinic in the public schools.

After examining two hundred twenty-seven boys and girls they found fifty-eight had imperfect vision, thirteen had defective hearing, six had hardened wax in the ears, twenty-eight had catarrh, eighty-nine had diseased tonsils, six had adenoids, three had soft palates, nineteen had abnormal noses.

In examining the teeth of two hundred thirteen they found sixty-two had cavities in temporary teeth, one hundred twenty-three had cavities in permanent teeth, one hundred seven needed cleaning and one hundred needed attention soon.

¹*Such as art exhibits, by such men as Birge Harris, Roy Brown and other prominent artists, good moving pictures, symphony concerts, etc.

²*From the speech of Roosevelt at the dedication of Millikin University.

¹Miss Hamilton was principal of Pugh School at this time. She later took Miss Jenkins' place as Supervisor of Elementary Grades.

²This was the first clinic under school management. The King's Daughters had started a free clinic before this in connection with the Baptist Church.

³Doctors Evans, Waltz, Cassell, Adams, Rowdybush, Russell, Bachman, Vaughn, Sundberg and Elslager.

After this the parents woke up to the fact that they were neglecting their children and something must be done immediately.

The interest created by this club reached out to other communities and in 1911-12 every ward school had a Mothers' club. Their work has steadily and successfully grown. Now as then they are interested in the health of the children, and purchase playground equipment such as slides, swings, rings, ladders, climbing poles, basketballs, volley balls, etc.

*During 1917-18 the total amount taken in by all the clubs was \$3,725.49 and the total amount paid out was \$2,710.24 for school purposes, such as playgrounds apparatus, books, pianos, victrolas, etc. They also adopted war orphans, bought Liberty bonds, donated to Red Cross and Boy Scout work, etc.

Besides their social and business meetings they have meetings in which outsiders talk to them on different topics of interest especially to parents.

The big result of all this work is a "better understanding and cooperation" between parents, teachers and children. The work has grown so that now all the clubs have formed a federation known as the Parent-Teachers' Association.

THE DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL

Those who view the manifold activities of our present high school can scarcely realize how humble was the beginning of that great institution now housing over 1,300 students. According to tradition, the first session was held in the year 1862 in a building known as the "Big Brick." Later the Second Ward Building stood there. The site is now occupied by the E. A. Gastman School.

At the time of the beginning of the high school, the school year was fixed at six months, and no regular course of study was adopted. The total membership for the year

*From June, 1918, reports of Board of Education.

was sixty-four. The school was poorly lighted and poorly ventilated. Heat was furnished by an old-fashioned coal stove.

During the summer of 1863, the location of the high school was changed to the basement of the Baptist Church, which then stood at the corner of Water and William streets. The Liberty restaurant now occupies that corner. Sessions were held there for the next six years.

In 1864 the school year was lengthened to nine months, and a short time afterward, a three-years course was adopted. In August, 1866, three lots on the corner of East North and Broadway streets were bought, to be used as a site for a real high school building, but no further action was taken until later. Construction was actually started in July, 1869, and school began in September of that same year. Three teachers were employed there, and Mr. Samuel Jack was principal. In 1870 a class of eight graduated; there were no graduates for the year 1871.

In 1892 an addition was made to the front of the building, and in 1895 an addition was made to the rear. The school was fitted with three session rooms, thirteen recitation rooms, two laboratories, a drawing room and a library.

By 1911 the town was rapidly growing, and a new and modern building was erected on the corner of North and Franklin streets. This was considered one of the best high schools in the state, having a gymnasium, auditorium, a library, a lunch room, and numerous other up-to-date features. With three laboratories, eighteen session rooms, thirty-one recitation rooms, and four manual training departments, it was thought that the future needs of students for years to come were provided for—yet today the school is vastly overcrowded, its faculty of fifty-two teachers too small, and its library and gymnasium facilities inadequate. We are much in need of Junior High Schools to relieve the pressure and keep up with "Growing Decatur."

DEPARTMENTS

SCIENCE

Perhaps no department in the school has grown more than the science department.

In 1871 a four-year science course was added to the curriculum. It was in 1881 that Mr. Coonradt began teaching in the school. At that time there was no laboratory, and the value of the apparatus was about two hundred dollars. The first semblance of the laboratory was in the basement of the school, and it was poorly lighted and heated.

The beginnings of the museum were collected by the first superintendent, Mr. E. A. Gastman. There was a fairly good collection of alcoholic specimens, birds and bird-skins, and a few mammals. The collections were scattered in all the rooms and corridors, in cases and on shelves. Later these were assembled in real cases in the museum on the first floor of the new building.

In 1881, one of the four teachers taught sciences. In these astronomy was included until manual training was taken up, when it was dropped.

Today the science department consists of five teachers, fully alive to the needs of the school, and making use of all up-to-date material on their subjects.

AGRICULTURE

The school realized some three years ago that, since it is located in the richest agricultural region of the United States, in order to work for the benefit of the community, it should teach what is a part of the life of the community. Thus agriculture was introduced as one of her courses. Though small in the beginning, like every other movement of worth it fought its way to the front.

The importance of agriculture as a vocation has not only been recognized by the local community and state, but today is helped by the Federal Government under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes law. The Decatur High

School, after three years in pioneering in agricultural work, has now come under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes law, whereby not only the technical but also the practical side of agriculture will be emphasized. Thus the subject will be vitalized and made a necessary part indeed in the life of the community.

ENGLISH

The English department has just revised its course, which in its present form is creating considerable comment.

A number of cities throughout the country have sent for copies of its methods.

The courses of this department are as follows:

Eight semesters of literature.

Eight semesters of composition.

Four semesters of effective speaking.

Four semesters of interpretative reading.

Two semesters of drama.

One semester of grammar.

The department tries not only to keep in touch with the most worth while literature, but also with current literature. "Builders of Democracy" and Galsworthy's "Justice" are examples of books of the latter type studied in the school.

Through Miss O. M. Bear, arrangements have been made whereby every student may subscribe at a low rate to "The Literary Digest," which is in some of the upper classes used on certain days as a text.

The department is willing to cooperate with the worthwhile movements of the city, state, and nation.

It supported the Red Cross Seal Drive and Thrift Stamp Drive.

Through its efforts two hundred twenty-five dollars' worth of Red Cross Seals were sold.

It raised money for the Belgian Relief Fund and for the Armenian Fund.

It cooperates with the "Review" in carrying on their annual story contest as well as other minor contests.

In order to improve the English of the students, what was known as "Good English Week" was launched. Tags of various colors were provided, and students making certain mistakes were decorated with certain colors. At the end of the week a student who had not been "tagged" at all was given a white tag of merit.

The work of this department is at present attracting considerable attention throughout the state.

MATHEMATICS

Three and one-half years of mathematics are offered in high school. One year of algebra and one year of geometry are required for graduation in all but four of the curricula. Algebra III is required for all students who expect to use their mathematics in college. Solid geometry and trigonometry are offered to students who wish to continue with mathematics. A student doing good work in algebra at junior high school receives credit for one semester's algebra upon entering high school.

The practical side of the work is emphasized where possible; for example, the department owns a small transit which is used in the various classes, especially the trigonometry classes.

The aim of the teachers in this department is to give the student a good working knowledge of the subject, so that his knowledge may be a help to him after leaving school.

Last year the mathematics department laid off the tract for the May Fete that was given by the schools.

LATIN

Latin was introduced in the school in about the year 1869. It was an extra course, and anyone who wished to study it was allowed to drop one of his studies.

In our school Latin is not taught as a dead language. There are seventeen Latin classes at present, and by means of charts they are taught the close relation between the English language and Latin. Advertisements of inventions containing Latin derivatives are cut out by pupils and made

into posters, as well as names of flowers, scientific words found in other subjects, and words that are Latin derivatives found in the English classics.

Occasionally plays are given in which Roman costumes are worn, and Roman games form the chief entertainment at some of the celebrations held. The department owns a number of supplementary readers and several Roman costumes.

MUSIC

The music department has kept pace with the growth of the other departments. Besides the chorus classes, harmony, music history, and music appreciation have been introduced. For these, credit is given if a student enters the University of Illinois.

There are many students taking outside music for which they receive credit.

A splendid orchestra has been organized. The department owns two violins, cello, bass viol, viola, French horn, and a trombone. At first the orchestra, which has grown larger and better each year, practiced after school. Now it practices the eighth hour.

The department first bought a small Victor machine, later exchanging it for a larger machine. There is now a large library of records. A player piano was purchased two years ago.

COMMERCIAL

Perhaps no department does more hard work or functions more adequately in the work of the school than the commercial department.

The commercial course was introduced in the school year of 1911-12. Miss Parker was the first teacher; she taught shorthand and typewriting. At that time there were only sixteen typewriters in use, and now there are thirty-five used every hour of the day. As time went on, authorities were compelled to have a separate teacher for each course. Lately a mimeograph has been bought for the use of the students.

In the commercial arithmetic daily tests are used to make the students more accurate and efficient. Penmanship is also taken with the arithmetic. A student must pass a certain test before he gets credit for the arithmetic.

The bookkeeping classes keep accounts for societies and other organizations. For their benefit the school has bought an adding machine.

The commercial geography classes do not only recite in the class room, but take trips to factories and other industries in the community to see how the work is actually done.

The students of the stenographic department are found working at the Wabash, the Review, First National Bank, Muellers', Leader Iron Works, and many other places.

ART

It has indeed been said with truth that the art department is one of the most willing in the school when it comes to cooperation, for it supervises all the excellent poster work of the school, and is responsible for the drawings in the "Decanois" and "Observer." Some really remarkable posters have been turned out by the drawing classes in recent years, some driving home points, in "Good Health Week," some illustrating truths for "Good English Week," some merely advertising games and contests.

The art classes take up the following: Still life and nature studies; perspective, design, poster, construction and cut out work. The advanced classes take up costume designing and interior decorating.

The mediums used are: Charcoal, crayon, pencil, pen and ink, and water coloring.

The art department has two organizations: The Poster Club and The Junior Art League.

The object of the Poster Club is to study good and bad art work. They, with the daily drawing classes, have made posters for the different organizations and special events of the school.

HOUSEHOLD ARTS

Household arts is divided into two classes: Domestic Art and Domestic Science. Domestic Art consists of sewing. The first thing made is a sewing bag, and in this lesson all of the stitches are taught. The bag is made entirely by hand. The lessons get harder as they go along, the last things made being wool dresses and silk dresses.

Every garment made is practical, and the student makes each for herself. A student must start at the beginning of the course, no matter what year she is in. She is taught to cut the garments out in such a way as to save material. Sewing is a very good thing to have in High School, because many girls do not have a chance to learn elsewhere.

Domestic Science takes in four important subjects. The first and second semesters are devoted to cooking and lessons in serving, and the study of foods. The third and fourth semesters are devoted to more elaborate cooking than the first and second semesters. Serving is emphasized especially. The fifth semester is devoted to home nursing, the care of babies, and first aid and bandages. The sixth semester teaches the planning of meals, the care of invalids, the food they should have, etc., the care of babies and small children.

It is a good thing to have domestic arts because it teaches girls things that they should know. It is a very necessary thing in these days of high prices.

The domestic art and domestic science rooms are light and airy, and this is a very important thing.

MANUAL ARTS

This course is one of the vocational courses of the school.

In the early days of the institution, anyone who suggested that carpentry or horseshoeing might be taught in the school room would probably have been ducked under the town pump on Lincoln Square.

A visit to the wood shop of the Decatur High School discovers such mysterious things as a circular saw, band saw, small and large jointers, and lathes, all of which a student is early taught to use. The boy who can plane well the face of a board or cut out curves with a band saw is probably a more efficient citizen than the bookworm in jeans in the basement of the Baptist Church long ago.

In the forge shop there are forges for heating the iron. The fire is blown by a power blower, the smoke being taken out by a power suction fan. There are anvils on which the iron is shaped by the various necessary hammers.

The equipment includes a "22" drill press for drilling holes in iron and a power water grinder for grinding the iron, also a gas furnace for tempering steel.

In the drawing room of the department there are drawing boards to fasten the paper to, T-squares for drawing lines, and 30-degree, 60-degree and 45-degree triangles and sets of instruments. Mechanical drawing and machine drawing are taught here.

The manual arts department cooperates when it can with other departments in the school. In past years it has made much of the scenery and furniture used in the senior plays. It is responsible for the cases for the Readers Guide and Century Dictionary in the library, and for the library bulletin board. It even does work for the ward schools whenever possible.

The boys of the 30's and 60's may have known many useful things about wild bee trees, finding the red ear at corn shucking, treeing 'coons and making corn-shuck horse collars, but the boy in the manual training department who turns out a cedar chest, a canoe, or an aeroplane, has probably acquired values that the pioneer and village boy did not have.

HISTORY

The history department of the high school tries to make the work practical in every aspect, teaching every subject so that the students are able to link the past with the pres-

ent, and so understand such present day things as the Americanization movement throughout the country, the industrial unrest, local social institutions, and the value of good school citizenship, a course in economics is offered, a somewhat unusual thing.

The civics course is always alive and interesting. The days when pupils were required to learn paragraph after paragraph by heart are happily over. Our civics students visit the Macon County jail and the poor-farm, gaining some very strong ideas about the governing powers of the grown-ups of the town.

The big civics exhibit which was put on by Mr. William Casey in the corridors, library, and drawing room of the school, was perhaps the most remarkable exhibit in high school history in any other state. By use of charts, photographs, statistics, posters, his students showed the general public the needs of Decatur in many respects. It was not comfortable in those days of lower rents for a prosperous landlord to see on a poster a picture of one of his tumble-down shacks, surrounded by ashes and tin cans, with a sad-looking tenant in the doorway, and underneath an inscription something like this:

"This hovel belongs to W. R. Skinnem, of the Second National Bank. It has three rooms that have not been papered for seven years. For this house the tenant pays \$12.00 a month rent."

Students who have taken history, civics, and economics in the Decatur High School have found that they have chosen wisely and well.

GYMNASTICS

The Girls' Gymnasium

The first gymnasium was in Greece, and for that reason we see the inscription, "Signa Mens in Signo Corpore," meaning "a sound mind in a sound body," on so many gymnasium doors.

The gymnasium of the Decatur High School is one of the best in the state. A gymnasium is a very good thing

to have in any school. Pupils who have plenty of exercise have more will power and more active minds.

The girls have hockey teams and basketball teams. Often they go on many long hikes. Lately a movement has been started to measure the girls to see if most of them are up to standard in weight and height, also to see if they have normal heart beat. By finding out the latter, teachers can see which girls are able to take gymnasium and which are not.

Under the auspices of the gymnasium department and the domestic art department, "Good Health Week" was launched last semester.

The object of "Good Health Week" in the Decatur High School was to correct certain habits detrimental to the students' health.

Proper diet, the number of hours' sleep for certain ages, the value of plenty of exercise, proper clothing for all kinds of weather, fresh air, and posture, were emphasized. This was done by means of posters, menus, lectures by city physician and the county adviser in Home Economics.

Tags were used with health rules printed on them. Themes were written in the English classes on health topics, and a clever little play was given by the English department. Posters were sent out by the Boys' Hi-Y Club, on the six hygienes. The sale of Red Cross seals was also held in connection with "Good Health Week."

Boys' Gymnasium

The boys' gymnasium classes are similar to the girls' gymnasium classes. On the floor the boys have standing exercises, work on the apparatus, and games.

There is an inter-mural basketball team, and on this team boys of certain weights play other boys. There are also basketball games where rooms compete with other rooms. Boys competent may play on the High School team.

THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

In 1865, as was stated above, the only high school in Decatur was the "Big Brick." It did not have a library or anything that pertained to a library except a large book, which they called the "Booktionary."

This was the only means of reference that the students of that day had. It held a place of honor on a large table in the corner of the room, and was walked up to solemnly by those on knowledge bent.

The students wanted a library very badly, but had no way to get one. Finally, Miss Emily Moeller, Miss Carrie Johnson and Miss Jane Howard, all students of high school, started out on a canvassing tour through Decatur to raise money for a room of books. After three days of canvassing they managed to get the entire sum of one dollar and fifty cents! With that "large" sum of money the principal bought a set of English Literature books. The students did not get discouraged, however, but kept on raising money with earnestness until they had a small library. This was the pride of Decaturites, and everyone would point very proudly to "our library," and the stranger would go away satisfied, whether he had seen it or not.

The High School library has grown from the one "Booktionary" to a library of over three thousand books and pamphlets. These are all recorded and the cards are kept in the catalogue, so that the student may go to it to find where his book is located and get it without trouble or help. The books are divided into sections, such as reference, fiction, biography, autobiography, zoology, and many others.

The library has grown so large that we have to have student help every hour. Student wishing to go to the library to do reference work signs a library list and is permitted to go. When they get there, they sign a slip. No student is allowed to go to the library more than once a day, because of the overcrowded conditions. If he does, he cannot go again for a month.

The library possesses a very beautiful picture on its south wall called "As the Sowing and Reaping." This was

painted by Sylvester, a man who loved to paint the Mississippi. This picture shows the wheat shocks about ready to be threshed. Beyond these you get a glimpse of the Mississippi river. There is no other school in Illinois that has such a wonderful picture. This picture was purchased by the classes of 1911, assisted by the Junior Art League, R. R. Montgomery, and others.

The school library not only contains the picture for the students to be proud of, but also a lovely statue of the "Winged Victoret." This was presented to the Decatur High School Library by the Junior Art League in a beautiful pageant in the auditorium. The statue is in the north part of the library.

There is no excuse for a D. H. S. student leaving the institution without becoming acquainted with what is good in periodical literature. In the magazine case one may find The Atlantic Monthly, Harper's, Century, Boys' Life, Current Opinion, Independent, Scientific American, St. Nicholas, Youth's Companion, and many others. Wornout copies of magazines not used for bindery volumes are placed in a clipping basket, so that students may find illustrative material of all sorts.

The Decatur High School library was one of the first in the state, if not the first, to give one credit per semester to capable students who assist in the work. No attempt is made to teach these people library science, but the power and knowledge gained through contact with the books and pupils are worth much to the assistant.

Unfortunately the appropriation for books has not kept up with the rapid growth of the school, so that students are often badly handicapped when they attempt to look up subjects. So great has been this growth that the library could make use of at least 7,000 volumes and three trained librarians.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School Government

As in any democracy, it has been found necessary to change occasionally the form of government in the high

school. A form that functions adequately for four or five years becomes outworn, and then a new one originates. The aim at present is for cooperative control. Thus the student is allowed full measure of self-control, and the teacher is the friendly advisor.

Only recently the Boys' Council and the Girls' Council, which served the school effectually for a number of years, have been replaced by a different scheme of government. This scheme is unusual, and probably is not duplicated in any other school in the state. It is much more comprehensive and authoritative than the old.

Its origin lays in the fact that the overcrowded corridors of the school gave rise to the situation that showed the need of intelligent restraint. Some of the more thoughtful upper classmen brought their plan for the solution of this to Mr. Evans of the history department. He thought it a good plan, and said he would talk it over with the principal, Mr. Deam.

Mr. Deam was highly in favor of the new move, and it was then brought before the faculty and the students. Everyone was at once in favor of it.

Briefly stated, the government of the school is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The thirteen senators were selected from among the upper classmen by the faculty. Harold Hansen was made chairman of the senate. The student representatives were elected by the students in the various home rooms, one representative being chosen to each twenty pupils.

The school government is supposed to run along the same line as that of the Federal Government of the United States.

A student's grades do not hinder him from being a representative if he is elected. Among the representatives are different classes of students, some passing on "E" and "G," and others failing.

The main purposes of the school government are set forth in the preamble, which is as follows:

We, the students of the Decatur High School, in order to establish a better and more efficient government, provide for the regulation and promotion of social, athletic and civic affairs, and promote the general school welfare, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Decatur High School.

Much is expected of this new movement, which insures a really fine and thoughtful democratic government for us all.

PUBLICATIONS

The Observer

The first issue of the school paper, The Observer, came out in the school year of 1893-'94. It was the result of the work of capable students and from that day to this the work has flourished. In those early issues we see the work of such people as Frank Lindsay, Ralph Mills and Buck Weems.

The literary standard of The Observer has always been high. The editors plan to exclude all that is cheap and vulgar, reflecting school life in the paper simply and in dignified form.

The Observer is still a monthly, as it was in the days of its beginnings, put out by a staff composed mainly of seniors. In this paper may be found stories written by the pupils, original poems, an account of school life from one month to the next, notes on athletics, jokes, and many other interesting things.

The Decanois

It has been said that The Decanois of D. H. S. might be called on overgrown Observer. It is put out every year by a staff appointed by the faculty. One of the most important features of the annual is the large number of very interesting pictures that may be found within its covers. All organizations and activities are carefully accounted for in this fine book.

Every senior student should buy one, not only for present interest but for interest in later years, when we are as out-of-date as the girls with their big sleeves stuffed with feathers, who once learned lessons in Decatur.

SOCIETIES

Agora Society

The Agora Society is made up of a group of about fifty girls, who come together every Monday afternoon at three-thirty, in one of the rooms of the High School. This society is one of the oldest and most honored organizations in the high school, and one may well deem it a privilege to have her name on its roll. A stranger gazing in upon them would think them to be the girls' senate.

The object of this society is to promote "the mental improvement of all connected with it in literature, in debating, in the writing of essays, in parliamentary law, in English, and in general culture.

To become a member of the Agora Society, a girl must be connected with the high school the previous semester and have done passing work all the time. Her name must be handed in accompanied by the signatures of at least five members who are willing to vouch for her earnestness in wishing to join. All names must be approved by the cabinet and at the next meeting voted upon by secret ballot. The candidate must receive a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present to be admitted into this society. After this is done she is allowed to enjoy all of the privileges of an "Agora-ite."

Forum Society

The Forum Literary Society is the next to the oldest organization of the Decatur High School. The Forum meets once each week in the High School, when a program is given by several of its members. These talks are generally of current interest. There is usually a debate for each meeting, as debate is one of the most outstanding literary features in the Decatur High School. These debates are of the greatest importance.

The society has an adviser from the faculty who takes a hand in Forum affairs only when necessary.

The work in the Forum is recognized by the school authorities to be a real educational value, so they allow five-tenths credit for work in this society.

The purpose of the Forum is to furnish an opportunity for practice and development in effective speaking. Its biggest and most important object is to mold men who can become leaders in life beyond the high school.

Many of the leading students are now Forum members. Not only has the Forum made school leaders, but the graduates of the Decatur High School have carried the "Forum Ideals" into college and everyday life.

Rotaro Society

The Rotaro Literary Society has as one of its ideals to turn out men. Not necessarily in stature, but in breadth of mind. The parties and many other social events add greatly to the pleasure of the members, but do not detract from its benefits.

The programs are of the sort that make the Rotarorians keep their eyes open and notice things that are taking place about them.

In the programs they have speeches on current topics, orations, to promote effective speaking; poems, to instill an appreciation for poetry; and parliamentary law drills, to make the members masters of business procedure.

The work done by the society is of a nature to deserve the credit it is given. The Rotaro contributes to all school activities, not only football, basketball, and track, but also to debate, effective speaking, and learned oration. The number of members is kept at twenty-five, so as to be sure that each member gets his share of development.

Rotaro's record in D. H. S. has been highly commendable and doubtless will be for years to come.

Mask and Wig

No organization contributes more to the pleasure of the student body than does Mask and Wig. In any large school

there are some people with dramatic talent, and these in the high school find expression in the dramatic society.

To become a member of this organization, the applicant must prove in a try-out that he has some special talent.

Several plays are given before the school every semester, during auditorium period, and these days are bright spots in the school calendar. The Mask and Wig is one of the most active clubs in the school.

Junior Art League

The Junior Art League, of course, represents the artistic element in the Decatur High School life. Any student may be a member whose grades are up to a certain standard, provided he is voted into the club and submits an acceptable six-hundred word theme on any art subject he may choose.

The purpose of this organization is to foster a love for art among the pupils and to teach them to apply any knowledge gained to everyday life. Some research work is done by the members. Lectures on art are given.

One of the most beautiful things ever produced in the school was the patriotic pageant, under the direction of Miss Kate Troutman, in which the winged victory was presented to the school.

Pym Club

In March, 1917, a new club suddenly appeared in the high school. A meeting was called of all students interested in writing, and a number of girls gathered in a room on the second floor. Two boys, Harold Lasswell and Max Fienberg, dauntlessly appeared later in "The Ladies' Aid," and through their efforts other boys became influential members of Pym.

Those who are lovers of Barrie will remember Pym, the writer of penny-dreadfuls, who lay in a flowered dressing-gown on a sofa, dipping his pen grandly in a saucer of ink, and writing at the most dramatic point in his story: "The end, unless you pay up by special messenger." It was from him Pym Club took its name.

The purpose of this club is to develop the talents of those who are interested or skilled in writing.

Pym Club members try out for all possible literary contests. In the year 1918-19, three out of four of the Review Prize Story Contest winners were members of Pym.

Pym tries to be of service to the school in little ways, as well as in contributing to school publications. The fortunes for the fortune's wheel at the freshman party were written by Pym people. One month Pym made a special effort to write rhymes for the joke department of The Observer. The society may not turn out a Mary Wilkins-Freeman or Alice Brown, but it will have given students a feeling of intimate companionship with them and with others who dip their pens in "the fatal, facile drink."

Aristos

Aristos, born in September, 1919, is the youngest of all the school societies. When Agora grew too large, it was disorganized and made into Agora and Aristos. Aristos has a membership of about thirty people, all juniors or seniors. The quality of its programs and the earnestness of its members have already put the society to the fore in the activities of the school.

Arion

Arion was organized in the month of February, 1918. Its object is to train freshmen and sophomores to speak well in public and to learn to manage effectively an organization. Arion as well as Aristos has had some thoughtful and interesting programs in past months. There are about forty members in this society.

CONTESTS

Needless to say, the high school lays emphasis on the value of literary contests. We have been fortunate in winning in many of these.

In debating with other schools we have several times won over our opponents. Timely subjects are chosen for

these debates. The subject for the year 1919-20 was: "Resolved, that labor is justified in standing for the principle of collective bargaining."

Our record in the extemporaneous contests held at various places in the state has been enviable, especially at Chicago and Champaign. Every year an increasing number of students tries out for entrance in this new field in high school work.

Every spring all students interested memorize a famous oration and present it before the try-out committee of the faculty. The successful orator represents D. H. S. at a chosen town, usually Charleston, where we already have an enviable record.

The preliminary try-out for the Chicago interpretative reading contest is held in April. During a school hour in a certain room anyone interested in this contest "recites her piece." If she is one of the eight or ten successful ones, she later enters another contest in the auditorium, where six fortunate ones compete in the finals. The senior girl winning this time enters the contest held in Chicago in the early spring. If she wins in this she receives a scholarship in the University of Chicago.

In May the preliminary for the Charleston contest is held. The readings for this contest are memorized, the winners appearing in the final contest, and the lucky one representing the school at Charleston. A gold D is awarded the ones who represent the school in these contests.

Other contests are the annual Decanois story contest, the Review prize story contest, and incidental competitions, such as Thrift Prize Contest and the like.

ATHLETICS

Football

Football is the most popular athletic game supported by the Decatur High School. It is a game that instills loyalty and school spirit in the students. Every home

game sees a large, enthusiastic crowd. This sport, besides aiding the individual physically, makes for teamwork and a spirit of good sportsmanship among the players. The team is truly representative, for every year finds members of the four classes playing on it. Although the coach and his assistant are chosen from the faculty, a ruling made by the high school athletic association, we have been fortunate in having excellent coaches.

The schedule consists of eight games, four at home and four out of town. Teams of the strongest calibre are booked. For several years past, our team has played one of the best teams in northern Illinois, and each time the result has been satisfactory, thus proving that the red and white team ranks among the best in the state.

Besides improving physically and mentally, the members of the first and second teams receive letters for their splendid work. These letters are in block style. Students whose averages are above G receive a white letter, and those averaging below this grade are awarded a red letter. Thus the standard of athletics is raised.

Every year Decatur has her share of representatives on the all-star teams. We also contribute players who develop into stars to the various universities and colleges thruout the country. Each succeeding year tends to spread Decatur's representation for turning out football teams that win by playing a clean game.

Interscholastic Basketball

Basketball follows football closely in popularity. Our gymnasium is always crowded to its capacity during a home game. The interscholastic season opens several weeks after the close of the inter-class tournament. This gives the football men, as well as the interclass players, an opportunity to try out for the varsity. The same rule regarding coaches applies to basketball as applied to football.

The basketball schedule usually consists approximately of twenty-two games, besides the district and state tourna-

ments, which are held after the close of the regular season. Return games are always played, which gives a good idea of the strength of all the teams. Decatur has won the district championship three times and has been runner up in the state tournament each year a team has been entered.

Our teams are usually speedy and have little difficulty in winning from the best teams. This fact is due to the interclass tournament, which many times develops stars.

In recognition of their faithful work, both teams receive letters. These are in the Old English style. The second team letters are smaller than the varsity letters.

Every year D. H. S. teams add to the school's traditions of success. The same loyal spirit and indomitable courage will bring an equal measure of success year by year.

Boys' Interclass Basketball

In the fall of 1912, the first interclass tournament was organized. Much rivalry exists between the classes, thus making the games much more interesting. The schedule consists of six double headers; these games are held once a week after the close of school. The championship is decided by the percentage of games won.

The first numerals were awarded in 1912, and this custom has always been followed. The crimson figures are set in a white background. The interclass tournament is a big factor in developing players for the varsity.

Girls' Interclass Basketball

The girls' interclass basketball tournament has been a feature for four years and has been successful from every standpoint. This tournament is held immediately after the close of the boys' tournament. This is the most popular form of girls' athletics and the games are looked forward to with much interest. The schedule and championship are managed in the same way as in the boys' tournament.

The games are played according to girls' rules, this being the only difference between the two tournaments. It was not until 1915 that numerals were awarded to players in these tournaments.

Track

In years past the team has won innumerable honors on the cinder path. Decatur runners hold many records at the Corn Belt and interscholastic meets. Great interest is taken by the candidates, and each evening is spent in getting in condition.

Although not so popular as football or basketball, track is gaining in popularity, and in a short time doubtless will be on a par with these major sports.

In the early spring an interclass track meet is held, thus helping to develop new men. Runners of unknown quality are often discovered at these meets. By the opening of the regular season the men are in good shape. The coaches have been very competent, and in the last few years the team has won a majority of its meets.

Hockey

For several years there has been a great demand for other athletic activities for the girls besides basketball. The results were the formation of the hockey club in 1915. This club has its own officers and a coach selected from the faculty. The girls meet regularly to discuss the rules and go over other necessary points. The club is divided into teams and tournaments arranged. The girls not qualifying for basketball always have a chance to try out for the hockey teams and the girls respond enthusiastically.

Hockey is taking its place as one of the most profitable and democratic forms of exercise possible during the winter months.

SOME PROMINENT BUSINESS MEN WHO ARE
GRADUATES OF THE GOOD
OLD D. H. S.

H. I. Baldwin	James D. Johnson
Lee Boland	Milton Johnson, Jr.
Everett J. Brown	Guy W. Lipscomb
Elmer O. Brintlinger	Thomas W. Pitner
Joe Catlin	Harold Pogue
Ralph O. Conklin	R. K. Schudel
Vadian W. Conklin	Arthur Wait
Archer T. Davis	Clarence Wait
Clarence A. Erwin	J. F. F. Waltz
Harry E. Haines	Roy R. Wilson
Benjamin A. Imboden	Will Wood
Cecil McKee Jack	Theo. Coleman
Thomas B. Jack	

LYONS BUSINESS COLLEGE

Lyons Business College was founded in 1909 by Miss Maude Lyons. It was started in a very modest way, and its growth has been gradual but steady. In 1915 the college was sold to Mr. R. A. Waitz.

The college occupies the entire second and third floors of the Neustadt building. The building and equipment are modern in every respect.

This institution offers three courses, the Business Course, the Stenographic Course and the Secretarial Course.

The Business Course includes Bookkeeping, Wholesale Banking, Penmanship, Spelling, Corporation Work, Commercial Arithmetic, Retail Partnership, Cost Accounting, Commercial Law, Rapid Calculation, Letter Writing, Office Practice.

The Stenographic Course includes Shorthand, Spelling, Letter Writing, Punctuation, Business English, Writing, Mimeographing, Office Dictation, Manifolding, Addressographing, Civil Service, Law Work.

The Secretarial Course combines the studies in the Business and Secretarial Courses.

Lyons Business College gives a chance to older people who didn't get an education, by offering night school.

This college promotes people to higher ideals.

BROWN'S BUSINESS COLLEGE

Brown's Business College was founded in 1884 by H. S. De Soller, who later sold it to Horatio Nelson, a resident of North Carolina.

In the October of 1889 it was sold to the late G. W. Brown, becoming at that time, one of the three schools forming the triangle, Jacksonville, Peoria and Decatur. These formed the beginning of a chain of twenty-nine schools owned and operated by Mr. Brown.

E. P. Irving was made principal at the time Mr. Brown became owner of the college. He remained until 1894, when H. M. Owen became its principal. In May, 1914, Mr. Owen purchased the college from Mr. Brown.

The school is located on the corner of North Main and William Streets, in the old Roberts and Green library building.

Brown's Business College has two departments, offering four courses. They are: The Stenographic Course, the Business Course and the Farm Accounting and Combined Courses.

The Stenographic Course includes: Shorthand, English, Penmanship, Rapid Calculation, Touch Typewriting, Spelling, Correspondence, Filing, Billing, Adding Machine and Mimeograph Practice.

The Business Course includes: Bookkeeping, Advanced Accounting, Penmanship, Rapid Calculation, Business English, Spelling, Arithmetic, Letter Writing, Commercial Law, Salesmanship.

The Combined Course and the Farm Accounting Course have about the same branches of study that the other courses have.

Brown's Business College has seen more than fourteen thousand men and women go into the busy world with a good business start. Some of Decatur's best and most prosperous business men have received their education here.

JAMES MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY

James Millikin University was founded on May 13, 1901, by James Millikin. On June 4, 1903, it was dedicated by Theodore Roosevelt and was opened for students on Sept. 15, 1903.

There have been only four presidents since the university opened. Dr. Taylor was first president. He served from 1903 until 1913, when he resigned and was made President Emeritus. Dr. Fellows then became president and kept the position until 1915, when he resigned. Dr. Taylor was then asked by the Board of Trustees to come back and act as president until they could find another president. He came back and served until 1918. Dean Hessler then became acting president and served from June 2, 1919, until Jan. 1, 1920, when Dr. Holden was appointed.

The enrollment for the first year was seven hundred twenty-nine. It grew gradually and steadily until 1919, when there were one thousand five hundred thirty-eight students, including the S. A. T. C.

When the university opened there were only four buildings. They were the Engineering Hall, the Liberal Arts Hall, the Domestic Economy Hall and the Power House. In 1908 Aston Hall was added. In 1910 the shrubbery was put out. In 1912 the Gymnasium and the Conservatory were added.

There are nine schools, supporting twenty-one departments. They are as follows:

- The School of Liberal Arts
- The School of Education
- The School of Manual Training
- The School of Commerce and Finance

The School of Household Arts
The School of Fine and Applied Arts
The School of Engineering
The Conservatory of Music
The Academy.

At the present time the university and its belongings are worth a million dollars.

Millikin is trying to give its students both the intellectual and the social sides of life. She is doing this through the organizations and clubs which not only give them pleasure, but also help them in their studies. The literary societies help them by giving prizes for the best work. The organizations and clubs are as follows:

The Students' Council, The Adelpic Society, the Young Women's and Men's Christian Associations, The Inter-League Society, L'Alliance Francaise, The Athletic Association, The Art Guild, the Acolyte Club and Students Volunteer Band, The Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, Ex Post Facto, Sororities and Fraternities, Domestic Economy Club, Pi Mu Theta, The Commerce and Finance Club, The Masque Dramatic Organization, Kappa Society, Seven Greek Letter Societies, Manual Training Club, The Level Club, The Millikin Club, The Alumni Association, Credit Societies and Clubs, The Literary Societies, The Philomathean Society, The Orlandian Society.

The Kappa Society is a society for the students who have won high honors. The members of each graduating class whose grades are ninety-two or above are entitled to join the society and may wear the Kappa Key. There are thirty-one members in the Kappa Society. H. G. Hudson was first president of the society. He received the Rhodes Scholarship.

Millikin realizes that to develop the students mentally, she must also develop them physically, so she provides them with all forms of athletics. They have had athletics since 1903. The equipment is of the very best. The field is one hundred eighty yards long and one hundred yards

wide, including baseball and football fields and one quarter-mile track. Grandstand and bleachers have a seating capacity of one thousand nine hundred twenty-five. The gymnasium was built in 1912. It is one hundred feet long and fifty-five feet wide. The running track above the floor is eighty yards. A small basketball floor is being fixed up for gymnastics. James N. Ashmore was coach from 1903 to 1914. N. G. Wann has been coach from 1915 to 1920. Miss Mollie Grubel has been coach of the girls since 1903. The athletics are under control of the Athletic Board. This board consists of three faculty members, two students, one graduate, and the coach. Each team has a student and faculty manager. They are allowed to play nine football, five basketball, twelve baseball and three tracks. Tennis has no limit. Each student pays five dollars for athletics whether he wants to take it or not. The students get a season ticket for all games.

During the seventeen years that they have had athletics, they have won five football, two basketball, five baseball, two tracks, five tennis single and four tennis double championships. These were taken out of the Little Nineteen Conference.

The influence of the university on Decatur cannot be measured. Mayor Borchers said: "The chief duty of a parent is to give his child or children the benefits of an education, and the parent that does all within his power to give his children the benefits of an education are usually of the highest class of citizenship. The students that come for the purpose of attending the university are from the best families and their presence has a great influence. In short the influence of the James Millikin University has been for refinement, advancement and improvement." This has also been the opinion of many others. Its influence can not be limited. It is felt in other cities, especially in the cities from which the students come. It is felt, not only in Illinois, but in the whole United States and in various parts of the world.

THE UNIVERSITY AS AN OPPORTUNITY

To bring together in one intellectual community a group of men and women with varying professional ideals, and to permit those men and women through their association with one another to learn something of the breadth of life and its opportunities—this is one of the aims for which the James Millikin University is founded. The young man who is a student in Commerce and Finance or Manual Training may see how necessary it is for him to broaden and deepen his intellectual life, while the young woman in Household Arts will be the better for studying her chosen subject in an institution in which others are working with equal diligence in Music or Library Science. The Liberal Arts student will know more of the world if he spends his hours in a library where Fine Arts and Engineering students are also reading. All of these young people may thus plan their courses so as to fit themselves not merely to serve in a chosen sphere of this world's activity, but to live a full life of appreciation.

It is the glory of the "small college" that such an association is more possible than in the great universities, where, of necessity, the various members are more or less separated. The spirit of learning is a thing of contagion; culture goes from personality to personality almost without means. Association with men and women who have already caught the spirit of learning is the surest method of education. This education by personality is the privilege of such an institution as this university, where numbers are small enough and contact frequent enough to permit its progress.

If the student catch from the members of the college an intellectual zest, uprightness in character, purity and lofty ideals of Christian service, he has a great background for a life of efficiency in a chosen professional field, and such efficiency—the power to serve discriminatingly and accurately—it is the other great aim of the University to give.

OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

L. E. Holden, President.

John Charles Hessler, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Chemistry.

Lillian Merrill Walker, A.B., Dean of Women.

Calvert Welch Dyer, A.B., Secretary and Auditor.

Lucile Margaret Bragg, A.M., Recorder.

Eugenia Allin, B.L.S., Professor of Library Science and Librarian.

Bonnie Rebecca Blackburn, A.B., Professor of French.

Robert Edmund Brannan, B.S., Director of Athletics and Instructor in Physical Training.

Lorell Mortimer Cole, Professor of Manual Training.

Grace Patton Conant, Litt.D., Professor of English.

Mabel Dunlap, B.S., Professor of Household Arts.

Luther Bateman Henderson, A.M., Professor of Philosophy.

Alexander Paul Kelso, B.D., B.S., Professor of Biblical History and Literature.

Robert Wuest Lahr, Professor of Theory and Practice of Art.

Davida McCaslin, A.M., Professor of Rhetoric and English Composition.

Lawrence M. McDermott, A.M., Professor of Commerce.

Isabella Thompson Machan, A.M., Professor of Latin and Greek.

Albert Taylor Mills, LL.B., A.M., Professor of History and Political Science.

Walter John Risley, A.M., Professor of Mathematics.

Emmet E. Roberts, M.A., Professor of Public Speaking.

William Wilberforce Smith, A.M., LL.D., Professor of Economics.

Fred D. Townsley, A.B., Professor of Physics.

Ansel Augustus Tyler, Ph.D., Professor of Biology.

Arthur Wald, A.B., Professor of Modern Languages.

Olive Minerva Young, A.M., Professor of Household Arts.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRANCE AND GRADUATION

Admission to the Freshman Class

A. By examination on fifteen units of work required and elective for the various schools as designated below.

The day preceding and the day of opening of each semester are regular examination days.

B. By certificate of graduation from accredited high schools or other schools of equivalent rank, with fifteen units of work. Blanks for such certification will be furnished on application.

A unit represents one year's work of thirty-six weeks, five hours per week, of forty minutes each, or the equivalent in laboratory practice.

These fifteen units are to include prescribed and elective work. Certain work is prescribed for all schools; some is prescribed, in addition, for admission to individual schools; the rest of the fifteen units may be made up from the Electives.

1. Units Prescribed for All Schools

History	1	unit
English	3	units
Geometry, Plane	1	unit
Algebra	1	unit
Algebra as a prerequisite for college mathematics or for courses with college mathematics as a prerequisite	1½	units

2. Units Prescribed for Individual Schools

School of Liberal Arts

Classical—

One foreign language.....2 units

Chemistry or Physics for those who take Col-
lege Chemistry1 unit

Scientific—

Science including Physics or Chemistry.....2 units

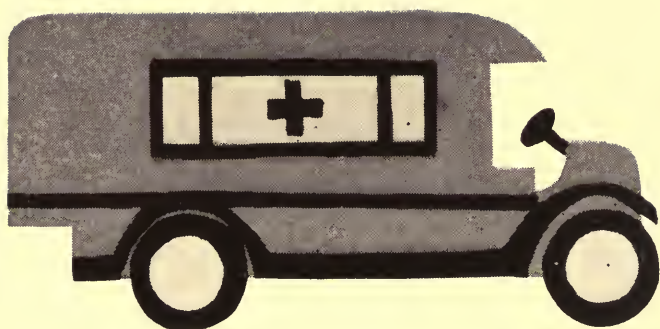
School of Education

Foreign language2 units

Science1 unit



EDNA GRANSTON 8B '20



ETHEL STRONG 8A '20

CHAPTER III

INSTITUTIONAL DECATUR

MACON COUNTY HOSPITAL

The Macon County Hospital is located on an ideal site in the northern part of the city. The grounds are large and contain many fine old trees which make a lovely park. It is close to two car lines, but has the quiet of the country.

Twenty years ago Macon County felt the need of a new hospital. Decatur was rapidly growing. St. Mary's Hospital, being the only one in the city, could not accommodate all the patients requiring attention. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Sue Hagaman, sometimes called the "Mother of the Hospital," that the work was started and the first association organized. This was called the Bethesda Association. In 1907 the name was changed to the Macon County Hospital Association. In 1908 the name was changed to the Decatur and Macon County Hospital Association. This association worked hard to raise funds for the structure of the building. By 1911 enough money had been raised to start the work.

On November 16, 1911, the first shovel of dirt was turned by Mrs. Hagaman. On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1912, the cornerstone was laid. On January 1, 1916, the building was opened for patients. The need of a larger building was felt so an eastern wing was built and opened to patients March 17, 1918.

August 9, 1915, Miss R. Helen Cleland of Boston was engaged as superintendent and later Miss Ethel Goss, also of Boston, was made assistant superintendent.

This hospital can accommodate one hundred and sixteen patients. The average number of patients is from ninety to ninety-seven. The first floor of the building has an operating room for eyes, ears, nose, and throat. Clinical work is also done here. The second floor has the children's department, medical and surgical departments.

The third floor has the obstetrical room, nurses' department and operating departments. The operating department consists of two large and one small room, the instrument room, etherizing room, doctors' and supply room.

The public clinic, under the direction of Dr. Neece and Mrs. Sweeney, is held in this hospital. Two mornings, one afternoon and one evening of each week the clinic has operations on eyes, ears, nose, and throat. One day a week is given to crippled children and Red Cross work. One afternoon each week tubercular patients are treated.

The Nurses' Training School was organized January 1, 1916, with eighteen nurses selected by the faculty. Twelve nurses graduated with honor April 1, 1918. Seven of these are now in the hospital filling responsible positions. Two are doing public health work. The others are filling positions in other hospitals. A new home for nurses on the hospital grounds will be completed April 1, 1920. It will be one of the best in the state. It contains private rooms for the nurses, reception room, living room, library, sleeping porches, gymnasium, class room, dining room, and kitchen. A matron will be appointed to take charge of the home.

It is planned to increase the size of the hospital in the future. A tuberculosis building, a contagious building, and an old people's building will be constructed. A new wing to the main building will be built for medical and surgical patients.

WELFARE HOME

The Welfare Home is located in the 800 block on South Broadway, which is in the southeastern part of the city of Decatur.

In 1916 a home for friendless girls was opened at 1339 North Main. A larger building was desired, so the trustees of the Millikin Estate donated the old Turner Hall and grounds for the purpose of giving these girls a larger and more beautiful home.

The Welfare Home Board raised the funds by personal contributions for the remodeling of this building. This building was completed in 1919 and opened to the girls November 11, 1919.

It is a beautiful structure containing twenty-five beautifully furnished rooms.

This is not a permanent home, but a temporary home for girls who are kept until they obtain employment, or are placed in permanent homes.

Children in this home are taught habits of cleanliness and industry, and are trained to be desirable citizens.

When the Welfare Home was first opened in 1916, Mrs. Jennie Kriedler gave one year of service as matron free of charge. She was very sincere in her work and much success of the home was due to her efforts. She was succeeded by Mrs. Myrtle Edwards. The present matron is Mrs. Orra Maddox.

The funds for the support of this home are obtained from Macon County, Decatur, Social Service Bureau, and by private contributions. The county and city pay this money for the support of children sent there by the courts.

Any children under twenty years of age can enter this home. The average number is about twenty-five. At present there are twenty-nine children. Many children stay for only a few weeks or less, while some stay for a much longer period of time.

The home has been a great aid in caring for the homeless children of Decatur and Macon County.

PYTHIAN HOME

The Pythian Home, a home for orphaned children of Knights of Pythias of the State of Illinois, is located in Decatur, Illinois.

The Home is beautifully situated in the northern part of the city.

It is on North Union Street and may be reached on either the Pythian Home or Edward Street car lines.

The location of the home is excellent, owing to the quietness, the nearness to the Oglesby School which the children of grade school age attend, and the spacious playgrounds which it is possible for the home to possess.

This beautiful building was completed in 1910. The cornerstone was laid by the Grand Lodge of Illinois Knights of Pythias on June 9th, 1908.

The home was dedicated on June 9th, 1910. The Board of Directors at the time of dedication were: John J. Reeve, Jacksonville, Ill.; Edward R. Wrights, Taylorville, Ill.; Nickolas M. Green, Chicago, Ill.; Smith L. Von Fossum, Beardstown, Ill.; James W. Carter, Decatur, Ill.

The building cost \$200,000. It is constructed of red brick, and is of the old English type. There are over one hundred rooms in the structure, and are arranged on five floors.

The first floor is used for work rooms and store rooms. The offices, dining rooms, kitchen, parlors, library, sewing room, and reception rooms take up the second or main floor.

The boys department and auditorium occupy the third floor, while the girls occupy the fourth. The fifth floor is used as a hospital.

Some of the rooms in the home are especially attractive being decorated in the colors of the home, red, yellow, and blue.

To the west of the building are found the farm, power house, poultry houses, etc. To the north is a beautiful natural park containing forty acres. In this park are found ash, red haw, oak, maple, and elm trees.

Children who live at the home must be the children of Knights of Pythias of Illinois. No child can enter under the age of two years nor above the age of twelve years. These children may live at the home until they reach the age of eighteen. The first children to enter the new home, came in 1911. There are at present forty girls and sixteen boys, making fifty-six in all.

These children have many educational advantages. Along with their school courses, those talented along other lines are given private lessons in music, reading, dancing, sewing, etc.

The superintendent at the present time is Mr. Clifton Hatch. Mrs. Hatch is the matron. There are three governesses, a housekeeper, a seamstress, and other helpers. Thursdays and Sundays are visiting days.

ANNA B. MILLIKIN HOME

The Anna B. Millikin Home, a home for orphan girls, is located in the 200 block Oakland Avenue, in the western part of the city of Decatur.

This is a very good location for such an institution because it is near a good car line and is surrounded by large grounds which give the required privacy.

The first home was located on the corner of Sangamon and Lowber Streets.

This building was originally a hotel but was donated by Mr. James Millikin for the purpose of giving a home to girls.

Later a need for a better home was felt so Mr. Millikin gave the three acres on which the new building now stands. He also donated \$15,000 for the structure of the building, while the city of Decatur gave the other \$10,000.

The cornerstone was laid May 24, 1900, by the Masonic fraternity. The building is of brick structure. There are fifty rooms in it, which are arranged on four floors.

At present there are thirty-six children and three old women in the home.

Girls who enter this home must be between four and sixteen years.

Each girl in the home is given a task to perform each day and is thus trained in the duties which every girl needs.

The home is supported by the money obtained from Macon County for dependent children, by money paid by a parent for the keeping of independent children, by interest on a \$9,000 endowment, and by donation. A large amount of donations is received each year.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were in charge of the home at the time of the opening. Miss Speers and Miss Caldwell have served as matrons.

Mrs. Maude Turner, from the Glenwood School of Chicago, is the present matron, taking charge Feb. 1, 1920.



LOUIS O'ROST BA '20



DAVID BAKER 8B '20

The smoke from the chimneys,
Curling upward to the skies,
Helps represent industries
Where the Spirit of Decatur lies.

CHAPTER IV

INDUSTRIAL DECATUR

FOREWORD

The purpose of writing this chapter about "Industrial Decatur" is to teach the children and adults more about their city and to arouse an even greater pride in it.

The material for this chapter has been collected from the heads of the manufacturing companies, the rooms of the different schools asking these men to come and talk about the factories. Another way they gathered the material was to write letters to the firms asking them questions and requesting literature.

Decatur has no reason for not being an industrial center, as it can fulfill all the conditions necessary for manufacturing. There are five of these conditions, which are, nearness to raw material, means of transportation, plenty of labor, plenty of coal or water power, and nearby markets.

It can get nearly all the raw material nearby, as it is in the center of the corn-producing region, and the other kinds of material can be obtained very easily with the help of her splendid railroad system.

In 1852 Decatur had her first railroad. Then the population of all Macon County was 4,000. Twenty years after railroads, Decatur's population by herself was 2200. It is now almost 50,000, and it has four main railroads, and twelve branches. As it has such a large population, it has plenty of men to work in the factories.

It has coal mines, therefore it has plenty of power to run the machinery. After the articles are finished, her trains will carry them to the nearby markets.

Anyone knowing the leading industries of to-day would like to know how Decatur grew.

The first house that was ever built in Decatur was in 1831; this house was southeast of town. Land then sold

for twenty-five cents per acre. Now it sells as high as six hundred dollars per acre.

Eight years after the first house was built there was an ox-mill established. The mill was southeast of town, and was run by oxen; therefore it was given the name ox-mill. They ground the corn faster than they could sell it, because the shipping was so poor.

A lime kiln was established in 1842. It was built southwest of town. Mr. Allen bought the mill and sold lime to Springfield. It was carried by wagons and the roads were very poor.

In 1865 the Union Iron Works was founded. This factory is still in Decatur. The factory was owned by C. C. Burrows, James Millikin, John M. Flood, and Charles Gradewell.

In 1865 the Bag Co. was founded. The cotton bags that the bag factory made were used by the Southerners who plucked cotton.

The Decatur Furniture Co. was established in 1866. It employed one hundred men and they worked twelve hours a day and their trade was about \$150,000.

Three years later, in 1869, the Hayworth Check-rower was founded, and manufactured a corn planter which dropped corn in rows. This factory is no longer in operation.

The Decatur Coffin Co. was established in 1872. It was owned by T. T. Roberts, Mr. Green, and Mr. Robert Lytle.

The H. Mueller Manufacturing Co. was established in 1874. It was built northwest of town, before we ever needed plumbing goods such as they make now, they at that time making guns. Having given some idea of our industrial growth, it is interesting to know that Decatur now has more than eighty-eight well established factories and others developing rapidly. Decatur was first to make fly swatters, hog wringers, slot machines, water tapping machines, check-rowers, wire mats, cattle dehorers, first burial slippers and three-row corn planters, while we also

had the first corn oil and cereal mills. Decatur ranks very high in some things. Muellers rank first in all the world in manufacturing of plumbing goods. Decatur is the largest corn milling city also. It ranks second in the manufacturing of soda fountains and is rapidly coming to the front.

Because of our splendid industrial development we were able to do our bit during the World's crisis. It is impossible to mention all the factories that helped in the World War, but we will mention a few. Muellers helped by making parts for shells, Leader Iron Works helped by making parts for submarines and ships, while Decatur Tent and Awning Co. made coal bags to hold coal for ships. The Wabash shops repaired Government engines. This was an important work, because transportation was a vital thing during the war.

LEADER IRON WORKS

As people became more progressive, they began to pay more attention to the importance of proper sanitation and conveniences about their homes and began to demand better living conditions. One of the chief necessities in this progress is a water system.

The founders of the Leader Iron Works had a water supply system to offer to every farm and suburban home in the country, which did not have the conveniences of a water system furnished to them by a city water works.

In looking for a desirable location the city of Decatur attracted the manager of the Leader Iron Works for several reasons. First, it offered as a railroad center, excellent shipping facilities for the receiving of its raw materials which came chiefly from Chicago and Pittsburg milling districts, also for the shipping of its finished products to other cities. It also offered an available supply of fuel close at hand. In addition to this, Decatur was located in the center of the great middle west agricultural section, which brought most of its products here for market, and having the advantage over many other manufacturing cities it offered good housing conditions for employees. This overcame many of the hardships encountered in the congestion of the larger cities.

Decatur with these advantages was an excellent place to establish a factory. The company therefore organized here in nineteen hundred three, with a force of about fifteen men.

As the desire for better living conditions became more general and through persistent advertising, the advantages and conveniences of the Leader Water System, its value and importance was carried to all the people, throughout the nation, and business began to develop rapidly until now there are about seventy-five of our principal cities that sell stocks of the Leader Water System to adjoining

territories. Chief among these cities are New York, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Nashville and San Francisco.

Although a somewhat limited interest is shown by foreign countries in appliances of this kind they are installing this water system. Canada, Cuba, Mexico and South America are showing a growing interest.

Since the oil industry has become so important there has grown a demand for oil storage tanks. The Leader people have been helping meet this demand by the output of a number of specialties in sheet steel for the oil producing territories.

In order to meet the promising demand for their products the Leader people have just let out a contract for enlarging their factory. This building is to be lighted in the most modern and efficient manner, and equipped with the most modern conveniences offered for carrying on their industry. This new addition to the old factory will triple their capacity for work and will necessitate the employment of from five hundred to one thousand men. The total investment in this improvement will amount to two hundred thousand dollars.

H. MUELLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, the largest factory of its kind in the world, bears the name of its founder, Mr. Hieronymus Mueller.

Mr. Mueller was born in Germany in 1832. He was a member of quite a large family. His life was very much like the life of other boys until his father was placed in jail for saying something against the royal family. He was then taken and educated by the State. He was placed in a school in which he was trained to be a mechanic. In 1852 he came to America to work at his trade because he knew that this was a free country. Some time afterwards, his mother joined him and they lived here until his death in 1900.

He followed his trade at first in Chicago and later in Freeport, Illinois. In 1857 he started a gun shop on West Main Street. The country around Decatur at this time was covered with woods and prairie grass. The people lived on wild game. There was, therefore, a great demand for guns. He made the flint-lock guns. The materials for these had to be brought from the Middle Atlantic States. As railroads were built his business grew until he had to move to larger quarters on North Water Street and later to East Main Street where Linn and Scruggs' store now stands. At this time he built an eight horsepower engine, and later, a twenty horsepower one to furnish motive power for his business. This engine was used as late as 1907 by the Decatur Candy Company.

His genius in constructing engines helped him to make an invention that Decatur needed. By this time the land had been cleared and drained, railroads were built and the country was becoming a farming region. Decatur had grown so large that a water plant was needed. It was becoming an agricultural center. The mayor of the city appointed Mr. Mueller city water tapper. He was not satisfied with the simple method of making connections in the water system. It was at this time that he invented a water-tapping machine which was approved by the city.

Because of his experience as a gunsmith he was able to begin the manufacture of water-tapping machines. At first it was very simple, but at present it consists of over fifty parts. The machines proved to be very satisfactory. It was not long until there was a great demand for them from cities all over the Central States that had water works. It was not long before he started a small brass foundry for making corporation cocks that would work more successfully with the water-tapping machine. This has grown to be one of the principal departments of the business. After enlarging the factory and removing it to Merchant Street, he placed each of his five sons at the head of one of the departments. This partly accounts for the growth of the business because each son took a special pride in

his department. With this increase in business The H. Mueller Manufacturing Company was organized in 1893 with a capital stock of \$68,000. The principal manufactured product at this date was the corporation cock. One company alone placed an order for 10,000 cocks annually. To supply the increasing demand, they found it necessary to move to the corner of Cerro Gordo and North College Streets, where the factory now stands.

Since that time a power plant and warehouse have been erected to meet the increasing demand for water, gas, and plumbing supplies which were now being manufactured. With the opening of coal mines, Decatur was demanding gas supplies as well as plumbing supplies. New buildings are being added every year as business demands it.

Besides the plant in Decatur there are branch factories in Sarnia, Canada, and Port Huron, Michigan. Sarnia was a promising center for the Canadian trade. It was necessary to establish this branch factory because of the high rates of shipping from the United States into Canada. Sarnia and Port Huron are near the sources of raw materials and are favorably situated for transportation over the land or water routes.

The water, gas, and plumbing supplies are manufactured partly of copper which comes from the copper mines of Lake Superior. This can easily be shipped by railroad to Decatur. The lead and zinc used come from the mines of Montana, Missouri, and Arizona. Tin, which is mixed with other materials, is imported from India.

To meet the demands of the business, the company employed about sixty men in 1895; two hundred forty in 1900; at present there are about 725 employees. In The Mueller Fiftieth Anniversary Year Book published in 1907, it is stated that in that year the company paid more in wages than was appropriated for the yearly expenses of the city.

The company has the latest and best mechanical devices and electrically-driven machinery. A rest room, tech-

nical and trade literature, an Aid Society, and a monthly magazine, are some of the lines of welfare work which is being carried on in the factory.

In the World War all three factories rendered their services. The factory in Decatur made fuses for three-inch shells. As each fuse had seventeen parts it was very delicate work. An experimental department carries on experiments to improve the work in each department. Within the last few years they have discovered that forging the metal produces better results than casting because in forging the particles of metal are made more compact and will therefore withstand more pressure.

All the products of the factory are closely inspected and tested. At the World's Fair in 1904 the company had an exhibit of water, gas, and plumbing goods in the Manufacturer's Palace. They were given two grand awards for the quality, workmanship, and design of their goods.

Soon after this an office was opened in New York to handle trade of Eastern United States and also that of foreign lands which increased rapidly after the Fair. It is a great advantage to have an office near a port rather than in an inland city like Decatur since goods are shipped to practically every civilized nation in the world. The largest shipments are made to those countries having numerous water works, as England, France, etc. They also send large shipments to Buenos Ayres, Calcutta, Sidney, Constantinople, South Africa, Tokio, Havana, Kingston, Manila, Canton, and many other cities. They do not have large shipments to South America and Mexico, as there are only about seventy water works in South America and a very few in Mexico. The people do not demand them because they are not studying health conditions and do not feel the need for plumbing and supplies.

In order to supply the increasing demands in our own and other countries, the company is planning to place their factory along the Sangamon River within three years' time. Here they will have seven hundred fifty acres of land. They expect their trade to increase so much that they

will need men outside their family to help manage the business of the company.

Such has been the result of a single man's ability as a mechanic; at first, supplying the needs of a city; then later helping to supply the needs of the world. The world will continue to grow in its needs, too, as its education for more sanitary conditions increases all over the world.

THE STALEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

One of the largest and most important manufacturing establishments of Decatur, Illinois, is The Staley Starch Works. It is not only the largest in Decatur but it is the largest factory of its kind in the world.

This factory employs over 2200 people and manufactures over 1,000,000 pounds of starch in twenty-four hours. Although the most important product, starch is not the only one, as there are by-products such as feed and oil cake. In addition to these products the company is preparing to manufacture corn syrup, sugar, and candy.

To supply this factory with raw material it requires a large quantity of corn which is easily obtained from the farming district surrounding this city. In order to keep the necessary supply they have fourteen storage elevators each of which holds 75,000 bushels of corn. The corn is carried from these elevators on a belt to the steep house where it is put in large tanks which hold 25,000 bushels. There are twenty-four of these tanks. The corn is steeped forty-eight hours until it becomes soft. Then it is carried to the grinders.

These grinders of which there are ten in the feed house, were made to take care of 15,000 bushels daily although they have a record of 26,000 bushels in twenty-four hours and they ground 727,000 bushels this month (January, 1920). At the present price this represents a value of almost one million dollars.

From the grinders it goes to the mill-house where it is run through reels where the coarse parts—the husk and germ—are taken out. It is next run over screens made of silk where it is again separated and it is then carried through pipes to the table house where it is run into troughs. The starch being the heavier part settles to the bottom and most of the gluten runs off and the starch which is left in the bottom becomes solid.

This is now shoveled by men on a belt and is carried to the kiln house. Here it is put in trays and loaded on tram cars and pushed into the kiln to dry. It is left in this kiln from eighteen to thirty-six hours, after which it is dumped onto another belt and carried to the powder house where it is run through a set of screens to a heated bin, where it is dried more.

After this it is treated with peroxide and it is now ready for the packing house. Here it is run through several screens, some of wire and some of silk. Here all the coarse particles are taken from the starch which goes to the packers, where it is put into sacks holding 140 and 280 pounds. It is then loaded into cars for shipment. Some of this is shipped direct to customers and some to another plant of this company at Baltimore, Maryland, where it is packed in small packages.

In this process about 65% of the solid part of the corn is used for starch. The coarse parts of the corn that has been left by screenings is taken to the feed house where it is dried in large revolving tanks heated to a high temperature. Here it is again separated and the germ is carried to the oil house where it is run through presses and the oil is taken out and after passing through several processes it is conveyed to storage tanks. The part that remains of the germ is called oil cake and is made into dairy feed. The other parts screened from the corn are mixed with the gluten and this also is used for feed. About 28% of the solid portion is used for feed and over 2% for oil, leaving less than 4% waste, as 65% is used in starch.

It would be impossible for us to give in detail the process used in manufacturing each of the products but one can see the important place this plant has in Decatur and the surrounding district by the amount of raw material used and the finished products. In order to haul the corn and the manufactured product it would require twenty freight trains. This company bought during the month of January, 1920, 575 car loads of corn. It shipped 555 car loads of products. Of the 555 car loads only 40 were shipped to foreign countries, which was less than the foreign shipment of other months, as the average is usually 200 car loads. This was due to difference of money value as foreign money is less in value than ours.

It is planned to open the syrup and glucose plant in June and this will call for more workmen and add to the importance of the plant.

The new building plans which are now under way call for an expenditure of two million dollars, and is the largest building project of its kind ever attempted in Central Illinois.

In order to appreciate this, one must visit the plant and see the activity that is being carried on in the yards. There are six miles of private railway track on the grounds and the switch engines are in continuous motion, moving carloads of lumber, crushed rock, and other materials for the buildings being constructed. There are about 900 men employed in the construction work, although machinery is used wherever it can be employed.

Along with this building work the regular work of grinding 25,000 bushels daily is accomplished.

In this time of strikes, the A. E. Staley Company has not been affected by labor disturbances. This is due to the fact that this company is just to the employees, even to doubling the increase which union men were urging the employees to ask and in this way the organization of a union was prevented.

Another way by which this company has showed its interest in the employees is the establishment of a store

to reduce the high cost of living to the employees. This department is trying to serve the employees and this is appreciated by those employed because they get a good brand of goods at a lower price than they can be obtained elsewhere.

In addition to furnishing employees supplies at cost this company offered to put in the new impounding dam which the city will have to do in order to have the necessary water supply, at the actual cost of labor and material.

This company has showed an interest in its employees socially. An athletic club and a band have been organized. An athletic park is provided by the company and financial aid given by the head of the firm. But the efforts of Mr. Staley do not stop at the plant.

He has encouraged the formation of a Home Bureau for the wives of the men employed by him and has offered a room for their use. Probably the influence of no one firm exerts as wide an influence in the life of Decatur as that of the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company.

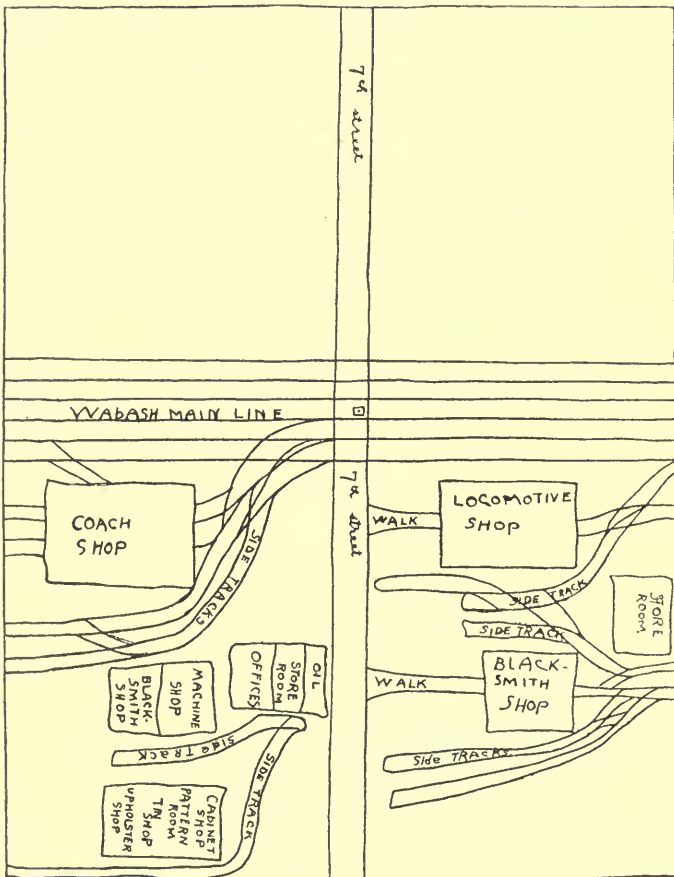
THE WABASH SHOPS

Outline for the Wabash Shops

- A. Location
 - 1. On Seventh Street.
 - 2. Close to other plants.
- B. Men employed there.
 - 1. Character of men.
 - 2. Different occupations.
- C. Locomotive Shops.
 - 1. Situation.
 - 2. Buildings.
 - a. Locomotive Shop.
 - 1. Employes.
 - 2. Materials and machines.
 - 3. Work that is done.
 - b. Blacksmith Shop.
 - c. Storeroom.

D. Car Shops.

1. Location and extent.
2. The yards.
3. Cabinet shop.
4. Coach shop.
5. Storeroom.
6. Machine and blacksmith shop.
7. Reclamation plant.
8. Wood shop.
9. Power plant.
10. Ice plant.



The Wabash shops are located in the northeast part of Decatur, Illinois, at the edge of town. They are northeast of the Bridge Works and also Staley's Manufacturing Company. This is a good situation because Decatur is the main distributing point for the Wabash shops and lines from Buffalo, New York, to Kansas City, Missouri.

The Wabash shops help Decatur because they employ men and the more men they employ the more families will come to Decatur to live. That way they would have to build more houses and Decatur would extend farther. If the men come to Decatur to work they will need houses, food and clothing. It will take stores to sell the food and clothing. It will take a lumber yard to sell the lumber for the houses. It will take land to build the houses on. It will take more streets, car lines and stores where the new houses are being built. This makes our city grow.

Many men work at the Wabash shops. They are most all union men and work a certain number of hours each day. They agree on a fixed scale of wage almost always. No union men can be discharged without a good cause.

Some of the occupations are as follows: Mechanics, laborers, pipe fitters, boiler makers, truckmen, machinists, carpenters, painters, welders, watchmen, flagmen, pattern makers, office men, shipping clerks, cabinet makers, upholsterers, electricians, car knockers, inspectors, railroad machinists, tool makers, tinnern, stenographers, bookkeepers, draftsmen, blacksmiths, switchmen, foremen.

The foremen have charge of different parts of the shops. The pipe fitters fit the pipes and make them to fit the engines and cars. Mechanics go all around their part of the shop to see that everything is all right and put together right. The yard master has charge of the yards. He tells where the different cars go and what tracks they go on. The switchmen, engineers, firemen and brakemen switch the cars where the yardmaster tells them they are to be put. The head general foreman has charge of the whole shops. He takes his orders from the superintendent. Painters paint different parts of the cars and engines after they have

been repaired. Lots of the men are helpers. They get any machines the other men want. They take in engines and repair them. They polish them. Then they look like new. There are mechanics that tear engines. They fit iron parts for the engines and put them together.

The shipping clerks are to see what is sent out and what comes in and how much it costs. The stenographers have a lot of letters on his or her desks. Bills and orders for materials must be taken care of.

There are three buildings that make the locomotive division. The locomotive shop repairs all parts of engines and coal cars. The locomotive shop is a big, long, gray building with lots of windows. It is nine hundred feet long and fifty feet high. When you go into it you can not hear anything for the noise. There are all kinds of machinery in it. There are three furnaces in it.

Seven hundred and eighty men work there. The men are working all the time. They do different kinds of things. There are train tracks in them to be brought in on.

They have four air compressors that furnish power for the shop. They have shields around them so that the men that run them will not tear their clothes. They are fenced in with iron bars. These air compressors are to help run the machines.

There are five cranes that have four wheels, two on each side and two big ones. They run by electricity. They run over your head at the top of the building. There is a little house in these cranes. The man that runs it is in there.

These cranes carry wheels, parts of engines and other heavy things from one end of the shop to another. Two of these cranes carry seventy-five tons.

When they take a great big engine apart they first take off the wheels. Then the big crane comes along and picks the wheels up and carries them down to the other end of the shop. Then they mark the wheels and engines. The men get on the wheels and ride them when the crane picks them up. The locomotive shops have big steam engines and steam hammers. They have made about four engines since

the shop has been built. They have big pressers. It has two stories in it. It has machines on both floors. It is about two blocks long.

The Wabash men make and repair boilers for engines. First they have the steel sent to them. They have to put holes in the steel and sometimes put the steel in a molder certain places. Legit is a cement that they put in engines to keep the fire in the fire box. They use it for repairing boilers.

The blacksmith shops repair and make parts of engines, coal cars, railroad tracks, switches and things for the lines all over their system. They employ 72 men. When they make a bushing it is fastened to a round wheel, the wheel goes around, then there is a piece of steel that cuts about half an inch off at a time. When they put the tire on they put it in a big fire and let it shrink. They stand the wheel up and put fire all over it. The blacksmith shop is not nearly as large as the other shop. They have all kinds of machinery in it. They have three furnaces in it. They keep the furnaces red hot all the time. They have three cranes in the blacksmith shop.

The storeroom has all parts of engines and things that are needed in the locomotive division. It is not as large as the blacksmith shop.

They have a separate storeroom, not using the one for the car shop division because it does not handle the supplies they need.

The locomotive division, including the locomotive shop, the blacksmith shop and their storeroom, covers about thirty acres of ground.

The car shops are situated on the east side of Seventh Street. They cover ninety acres of land. They include storeroom, power plant, coach shop, machine shop, blacksmith shop, cabinet shop, reclamation plant, ice plant, scrap dock and several offices.

All things that are shipped in come to the yards first, such as sheet iron and tin. They then are taken to their places. In the yards they have iron and wood all piled up

in piles. They use the iron and wood for their own use. When they have wrecks they fix the tracks with the rails they have in the yards. Lots of the wood is taken to the cabinet shop for the pattern makers to repair and make seats, window frames, furniture for dining cars. The iron is often rusted but is painted and shaped to use. They use the tracks that are in the yards to take the iron and wood to shops in different parts of the yards and to switch the freight cars. They put most of the trains and cars together in the yards. The men in the yards are hard workers. They are men working at repairing freight cars. The scrap gangs get the iron, put it on a pulley, load it on a car. When they get a carload they send it away where it is melted to use. The car inspector goes around and sees if the cars are all right and if they need repairing.

The cabinet shop employs sixty men. They repair and make tables, cabinets, chairs, desks, berths and all furniture that is used in the shops and what is used on the Wabash lines. The cabinet shop is one hundred and eleven feet long, thirty-eight feet wide and sixteen feet high. They have all kinds of machines, such as jig saw, rip saw, rib saw, band saw, and others. There is a wood shaver that shaves wood just as it is supposed to be, a joining machine that joins different pieces of wood together. They have a grindstone, meter, turning lathe, shaper. There is a jointer that saws the wood smooth, then they glue it together like one board.

In the pattern makers' shop they use blue prints to mark the wood that they are going to make a pattern out of. They make a pattern out of wood, paint it, send it to the foundry to have iron molds made just like them. They make any shape pattern that is wanted. The pattern makers do not have much work to do but when they do have something to make it takes them a long time to get it in the right shape.

The upholstering department repairs and makes all cushions, seats and chairs. They put plush on, then some that are dirty they scrub them and clean them off. They have a machine that cuts leather. They cut the leather and

fit it on smoothly on the furniture. They put the cushions on and varnish them. Then they put them in the coach or take them to the storeroom to be shipped to different places.

In the tinner's department they make stove pipes. They put the tin on the roller and roll it. They run the tin through something like a wringer. After they have taken the tin off of the wringer they run it through again to be sure of the right size. Then they tack it. The stove pipes are used anywhere. They have an emery wheel to grind things on. They make galvanized iron buckets. The tin they get comes in boxes. Some of the furniture has to have tin put on it. They have got a tin cutter. It cuts tin into squares. They repair and make lanterns.

The coach shop is much larger and higher than the cabinet shop, so that the coaches can be brought in to be repaired. The coach shop itself is three hundred and eighty feet long and one hundred feet wide. Coaches are sent to be repaired perhaps often scarred up in wrecks. In the coach shops there is a car that has different parts of an engine, but they are littler than the pieces on the engine. This car is to instruct the men. They go in there and have all parts explained. The car runs from St. Thomas, Canada, to Kansas City, Missouri, stopping at all important cities. The coach shop repairs from twelve to fifteen cars a month. Sometimes it takes two or three months to repair one coach. There are old trucks that have been in wrecks. There is a car that has a wooden body on it. They are putting a steel body on it. There is a big motor that makes electric lights for headlights. They have a powerful torch that burns parts of rods and bolts off about the cars.

The parlor cars have soft rocking chairs, soft davenport and books to read. It is just like a living room on the inside. There are seats out on the end of the parlor car for the people to see better. Parlor cars are not on local trains, just on limited trains. A local train is a train, but a limited train is a fast train. It does not stop at all depots.

Storeroom is filled with shelves. Everything they may need, pieces of iron wheels, bolts, lanterns, ropes, buckets,

shovels, red lights, oil and paint they store on the shelves. They have washers, nails, linoleum, taps, and castings. They ship out oil, paint and all things needed on the lines. They have some things shipped in, such as brooms, lanterns and shovels. They also make lanterns and buckets, bolts and things needed on the lines. Some of these things are made in Decatur and some are shipped in. They have draftsmen to make blue prints. They have barrels, electric light fixtures, hammers, matches and hatchets. The store-room has some offices on the first floor and the general superintendent, Mr. Needham's, offices upstairs. The offices downstairs are such as shipping clerks, stenographers, bookkeepers and draftsmen.

The machine shop and blacksmith shop.—In the blacksmith shop they take a big block of iron and get it red hot, then a man has a hammer and pounds it in the right shape. The machine and blacksmith shops are two hundred and eighty feet long, ninety feet high, and twenty feet wide. There is a steam hammer that without the pressure it drops five hundred pounds; with the pressure it is fifteen hundred pounds. There was an iron drill press that drilled six holes at a time. Then there is a threading machine that cuts pipes as it threads the pipe. They heat the broken axles that come off of the broken cars and the wheels the same way, then they take the steam hammer and get them straight.

In the wood shop they have a wood shaver that shaves wood so that they can glue it together like one. They have a motor saw that runs by electricity. It has a belt that goes around and saws wood. They have many saws that saw all sizes. There is a band saw that cuts three boards at a time. They cut big sills. They have a wood mill and some little cranes. The cranes are on little tracks. They use the little cranes so if wood or anything is too heavy they can put it on the little crane and it will carry it for them. They have a suction pipe that they sweep the coarse sawdust into and it goes to the power plant and helps furnish power for the shops. They take the fine sawdust and sometimes they use it for packing things.

The reclamation plant does just about the same as the machine shop. They have a pipe threader that threads the pipe as it cuts it. They handle heavy things such as wheels and boilers. It is in the northwest corner of the yards.

In the power plant is where the power is furnished for the shops. In the wood mill they have a suction pipe that they sweep the coarse sawdust in and it goes to the power plant, where it helps furnish power for other shops. It is burned up.

The ice plant is used to keep ice in summer and winter. They pack the ice in sawdust and straw. They do not use the sawdust from the wood mill for the ice. They put up the ice in winter and keep it till summer. The ice is used for putting in refrigerator cars or coolers. The ice is to keep perishable things from spoiling. The ice goes up a chute like a pipe and goes down into the plant and there it is packed. They have either artificial or natural ice there.

THE DECATUR BRIDGE WORKS

The Bridge Company is located on the east side of Decatur on East Eldorado Street in the 1900 and 2000 block. It was established by E. B. Tyler, W. N. Wood, G. A. Caldwell and T. L. Blackburn in 1903. It is a corporation.

It employs about 225 men and has no factories elsewhere. The men it employs are all Americans.

They receive materials from steel rolling mills located at Pittsburgh. They receive their material after it is rolled into sheets. It comes in the shape of I-beams, channels, T's, plates, angles and bars. It is received in various lengths. The materials are unloaded by an overhead traveling crane and carried to tracks and then distributed by cars over the plant. Lifting by the men has been reduced to a minimum.

They first cut the steel, punch, rivet, weld and shape it as each distinct piece is called for. The factory is fitted

with the best of machinery to care for each part of the work. They make their own rivets.

They manufacture roof trusses, steel parts of steamships and all kinds of structural steel. They have not a standard trade.

After the product is finished it is taken into the yards and inspected and painted. It is loaded in the cars by a derrick and is packed as well to go a short distance as to go a long one, for it is easily damaged. It is fastened securely.

They ship their products through Illinois to the South and to the West. Their materials are very heavy and freight rates are very high, therefore their territory is limited.

Their main routes are via the C., I. and W., I. C., Wabash and Penn.

Their sources of power are steam, air and electricity. They make fifty per cent of their own power, the rest they obtain from the local power plant.

They have no foreign trade or foreign offices. Their general output varies each year, as they do work by contracts.

During the war they made parts of ships and sent them to France. These were packed according to the rules of the steamship lines. During the war they ran night and day. In time of peace it is run only during the day. The buildings were also enlarged to meet the demand of their trade. They did everything they could to help the government.

The plant keeps in close touch with its employes and gives them any assistance they can. The employes are well paid.

This plant also has its own drafting room and each piece of steel is planned here before being made.

THE WILLIAMS SEALING CORPORATION

Decatur should be proud of its most modern manufacturing concern, The Williams Sealing Corporation, which manufactures "Kork-N-Seal" caps for bottles and "Kork-N-Seal" capping machines.

The reason for the location of the factory in Decatur is an interesting one. The factory was formerly located in Waterbury, Connecticut, but the company decided to move west and in seeking a new location examined seventy-six manufacturing cities with a population of from 25,000 to 100,000.

After five years of careful study Decatur was finally selected as fulfilling all the requirements which they were seeking. Some of the facts about Decatur which acted as a magnet to bring The Williams factory here are these:

Decatur is near the center of population of the United States; it is in a coal producing district; labor is easily attainable and of good quality; there are good transportation facilities; and Decatur is a good place in which to live.

The raw materials, such as wire, tin plate, tin foil, pig iron, glue, cork, etc., came largely from the central states and when the caps were manufactured in Connecticut, they were mostly sold to customers in the central and western states or somewhere within a reasonable radius of the center of population. This, of course, made a great expense in transportation charges for the raw materials and the finished product. Locating in Decatur has reduced that item of expense.

Nearness to coal always is an item for consideration when running a factory and since Decatur has three soft coal mines it filled that need.

Getting labor is a much easier problem in Decatur than in an eastern city where the demand is so great and where strikes are common. Then, too, there is a higher class of workmen to be found here than in many places in the East. With the interurban and several railroads for transportation, Decatur can readily bring in raw products from all parts of the United States and quickly ship finished "caps"

to the purchaser. In the East there is so much manufacturing and comparatively so few express companies and railroads that goods are often held up weeks at a time before shipment can be made.

A glance from the distance is sufficient to mark The Williams factory as up-to-date, for the major portion of the exterior of the four-story structure is glass. Upon going thru the building you are further impressed with the latest improvements for making a factory light and sanitary. Drinking fountains are found on each floor. There are individual lockers; laundry rooms where the company washes the suits worn by the employees for half a week; wire protectors over moving belts and plenty of heat in cold weather. The building is fire-proof, having re-enforced concrete floors and columns.

The Williams Sealing Corporation not only makes caps for bottles but also makes the machines that make the caps. That means that one entire floor is a machine shop where men are constantly working on machines and tools, which are used on the other floors in manufacturing Kork-N-Seal and on Kork-N-Seal capping machines.

"Kork-N-Seal" is the unique trade-mark which is used by the company to advertise its goods. To watch the various steps in producing the "Kork-N-Seal" cap is most interesting. There are nine operations performed to produce a finished "Kork-N-Seal."

The following outline will give in brief the important facts about The Williams Sealing Corporation.

Williams Sealing Corporation

I

Officers and Chief Owners

President, Mr. John H. Goss, Waterbury, Connecticut; Secretary, Mr. Chas. D. Nye, Waterbury; Treasurer and General Manager, Mr. G. A. Williams, Decatur.

II

Location—Jasper and Garfield Ave., northeast part of city, on Condit car line.

III

When established

1909, in Waterbury, Connecticut. Factory opened in Decatur in 1918.

IV

Why established

- (1) Nearness to center of U. S. population
- (2) Good transportation facilities
 - (a) Railroad
 - (b) Interurban
- (3) Coal mines
- (4) Laborers easy to get and of higher type Americans
- (5) Decatur a good place to live.

V

Number and kinds of employees

- (1) About 150 persons employed
 - (a) Mostly women (run capping machines, 62½ female, 37½ male)
 - (b) A number of men (machine shop).

VI

Protection of employes

- (1) Fire-proof building
- (2) Fire extinguishers
- (3) Fire buckets
- (4) Fire escapes
- (5) Wire over belts.

VII

Sanitary conditions

- (a) light
- (b) heat
- (c) air
- (d) water

- (2) White caps and suits furnished by the company for women
- (3) Six-minute rest in middle of morning and afternoon
- (4) Laundry
 - (a) Suits washed twice a week.

VIII

Products manufactured

- (1) bottle caps
- (2) capping machines.

IX

Materials received

- (1) tin plate
- (2) cork and composition cork
- (3) wire and steel (soft and hard)
- (4) bottles
- (5) wood
- (6) rubber
- (7) tin foil
- (8) glue
- (9) cast iron and steel
- (10) wax paper
- (11) lacquer.

X

Process of making caps

- (1) cutting out
- (2) shaping
- (3) making wire fixtures
 - (a) nickel plating the clamp
- (4) Pressing cork or rubber in the caps
- (5) Putting together.

XI

Arrangement of building

First Floor

- (1) Office
 - (a) general
 - (b) private

- (2) store room
 - (a) raw products
 - (b) bottles
 - (c) shipping boxes
 - (d) finished products.

Second Floor

- (1) superintendent's office
- (2) machine shop
 - (a) making capping machines
 - (b) repairing machines
 - (c) repairing and making tools.

Third Floor

- (1) stamping and wire forming
- (2) locker rooms
- (3) wash rooms
- (4) foreman's office.

Fifth Floor

- (1) laundry.

XII

A partial list of the names, location, and article put up by firms using "Kork-N-Seal" follows.

Firm and Location	Articles put up
Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.....	Scott's Emulsion
D. Jayne & Sons, Philadelphia.....	
.....Jayne's Expectorant & Tonic	
Piso Co., Warren, Pa.....	Cough Medicine
S. C. Wells Co., LeRoy, N. Y.....	Shiloh's Cough Cure
Orator F. Woodward, LeRoy, N. Y.....	Kemp's Balsam
H. G. Heinz Co.....	Heinz Vinegar
Richardson Corporation.....	Maid of Honor Fruit Juices
Park Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich.....	Peroxid America Oil
Frederick Stearns Co., Cleveland..	Mulsified Coconut Oil
Lowe Bros. Co., Dayton, Ohio.....	Furniture Polish
McKesson & Robbins, New York..	Manufacturing Chemist
W. M. S. Merrell Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.....	
.....	Pharmaceutical Preparation

A. B. Dick Co., Chicago.....	Mimeograph Supplies
Hess & Clark, Ashland, Ohio.....	
.....	Veterinary & Chicken Remedies
Standard Oil Co., Chicago.....	Stanalax
Liquid Carbonic Co., Chicago.....	Fruit Juices
Maltine Co., Brooklyn, N. J.....	Malt Extract
Waxit Co., Minneapolis, Minn.....	Waxit Polish
Heinrich Chemical Co., Minneapolis...	Flavors & Medicine
Marshall Oil Co., Marshalltown, Ia.....	Molax
O. L. Gregory Vinegar Co., Paris, Texas.....	Vinegar
•Ryan-Eastman Co., Cedar Rapids, Ia.....	
.....	Automobile Carbon Remover

THE FARIES MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Outline

1. Age, importance, and officers.
2. Location.
3. Beginnings and growth.
4. Articles manufactured.
5. Raw materials used and where obtained.
6. Employees.
7. Advertising.
8. Packing of goods.
9. Outline of places to which finished products were shipped in 1919.
10. Map showing distribution of the finished products.

The Faries Manufacturing Company, organized about forty years ago, holds a prominent place in our community because of the inventive genius of the late Robert Faries and the patents secured on these valuable inventions and because men of ability and sound judgment have been at the head of affairs. The present officers are E. P. Irving, president and treasurer; W. E. Surface, vice-president and superintendent, and W. J. Grady, secretary.

The factory is located at 1036 East Grand Avenue near the Illinois Central tracks and there the plant occupies an entire block of ground and has several buildings used as machine shops, warehouses, foundries, offices, etc.

In 1866 Robert Faries came to Decatur to install a boiler upon which he had recently taken out a patent. The boiler was not the success Mr. Faries had hoped it would be, but he liked the young town and secured work as an expert mechanic and boilermaker, and made Decatur his home. In a few years he was able to save some money. To this he added by borrowing enough to start a small shop in the basement of his home which was then located at the corner of East Grand Avenue and North Illinois Street, which is a part of the ground now occupied by the plant of the Faries Manufacturing Co. His business continued to grow and in 1880 he built a shop on the ground next to his home and this was the beginning of the present plant. He continued business until 1894, at which time the present Faries Manufacturing Company was organized.

From the small beginning in 1880 has grown the present plant which now practically covers three-fourths of the block with buildings from one to three stories in height. The company expects to erect another building this spring 152 feet by 160 feet, one story high, upon the northwest corner of the block. When this is completed the entire block will be covered with buildings. The investment of the company in Decatur in real estate, merchandise, accounts, etc., will amount to considerably over one-half million dollars.

The company's best known line of manufactured articles are check rower wire, electric light fixtures, and gun cleaning rods. Many of the designs of the goods manufactured, as well as the machines used in the plant, are covered by patents taken out by Mr. Faries.

Check rower wire is used upon corn planters for checking corn when planting, and has made the work of the farmer much easier. By means of this wire the farmer is able to have his corn in straight rows in both directions

so that it is possible to cultivate the corn both ways. This allows him to plow up and destroy all the weeds in the field.

The electric light fixture business covers a large variety of goods. It was started with adjustable brackets invented and patented by Mr. Faries for use in his own machine shop. This adjustable bracket was made in many different shapes and designs and when put upon the market was in big demand everywhere since electricity had come into such common use in homes, offices, stores, factories, etc.

The gun cleaning rod, which is patented, has also a wide sale. The rod is in three pieces which screw together, and in the handle-part is an oil can and screw driver.

The raw materials used in the manufacture of these various articles are mainly wire, brass, and aluminum. The wire is usually bought from the United States Steel Corporation and comes principally from Joliet and Waukegan, Illinois.

The brass is bought in sheet, rod, or tube form. When the Faries Manufacturing Company was first organized wire and brass were manufactured only in the East, and the supply had to be shipped from Connecticut. In recent years, however, factories for the manufacture of these goods have been established in the Middle West so that most of the brass that the company now uses comes from Kenosha, Wisconsin. Another such factory is located at East Alton, Illinois.

Aluminum is used mainly for the manufacture of electric light shades, and is obtained from the Aluminum Company of America at its plant at Niagara Falls, New York.

The factory employs something over three hundred persons and the weekly pay roll amounts to between \$6000 and \$7000. Traveling men visit all parts of the United States and Canada, and one of them makes regular trips to South America.

The company advertises widely through catalogs and trade papers, both home and foreign.

The finished products are sent to every continent on the globe. In shipping goods to foreign countries special attention is given to the manner of packing. This is necessary because of the long journey the goods have to take and various methods of transportation and handling they must stand before they reach their destination.

The following outline and map give the principal cities to which goods were shipped in the year 1919, altho the list is nowhere near complete.

Faries Maufacturing Company

Decatur, Illinois, U. S. A., 1919

Shipped goods to

I Europe

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1 England | 3 France |
| (a) London | (a) Paris |
| (b) Manchester | (b) Lyons |
| 2 Spain | 4 Iceland |
| (a) Barcelona | (a) Reykjavik |
| (b) Valencia | |

II South America

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Colombia | (h) Rio Grand de Sul |
| (a) Barranquilla | 4 Uruguay |
| (b) Cartagena | (a) Montivideo |
| (c) Bogoto | 5 Paraguay |
| 2 Venezuela | (a) Asuncion |
| (a) Caracas | 6 Argentine |
| 3 Brazil | (a) Buenos Ayres |
| (a) Para | (b) Rosario |
| (b) Pernambuco | (c) Mendoza |
| (c) Bahia | (d) La Plate |
| (d) Rio de Janeiro | (e) Bahia Blanca |
| (e) Sao Paulo | 7 Chili |
| (f) Santos | (a) Santiago |
| (g) Porto Allegre | |

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (b) Valparaiso | 8 Peru |
| (c) Iquique | (a) Lima |
| (d) Valdivia | (b) Callao |
| (e) Concepcion | 9 Ecuador |
| (f) Temuco | (a) Quayaquil |
| (g) Antafagosta | (b) Quito |

III Asia

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 China | 3 Dutch East Indies, Java |
| (a) Shanghai | (a) Sourbaja |
| 2 India | |
| (a) Bombay | |

IV Africa

- 1 Union of South Africa
(a) Johannesburg

V Oceania

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Australia | 2 New Zealand |
| (a) New South Wales | (a) Christchurch |
| (a ¹) Sydney | (b) Wellington |
| (b) Victoria | (c) Auckland |
| (b ¹) South Australia | |
| (c) Melbourne | |
| (c ¹) Adelaide | |

VI North America

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 United States | |
| (a) All states and territories including Alaska, Porto Rico and Hawaiian Islands. | |
| 2 Cuba | 4 Cuba |
| (a) Havana | (a) Havana |
| (b) Santiago de Cuba | (b) Santiago de Cuba |
| 2 Dominion of Canada, all provinces | 5 Guatemala |
| | (a) Puerto Barrios |
| 3 Newfoundland | 6 Panama Canal Zone |
| (a) St Johns | (a) Panama |



Distribution of the products of the Faries Manufacturing Co. in the year 1919—
outside of the United States.

THE COMET AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

The Comet Automobile Company was established in May, 1917. The officers of this company are: Geo. W. Jagers, president; G. W. Beck, sales manager and first vice-president; R. H. Campbell, purchasing agent and second vice-president, and Mr. E. B. Madden, factory manager.

The factory is a one-story structure 150 feet by 600 feet, located in the 800 block on Garfield Avenue, with the Illinois Central railroad on the east.

The factory assembles the parts for the Comet automobile and truck. There are two hundred and fifty different parts of the car which have to be put together. These parts come from various places in the United States. The metal and wood parts come from Moline, Illinois; the motors from Detroit, Michigan; small castings from

the Decatur Malleable Iron Works, Decatur, Illinois, and the upholstering, putting on top and curtains are done at the factory.

The Comet Six is a car of unusual beauty, having a very long body made in green or maroon or blue. At the present time the car sells for \$2150.

As the company is only in its infancy, shipments are mainly made to the United States, altho cars have been shipped to Denmark and Belgium.

Employees receive from forty-five to seventy cents an hour, work nine hours a day and six days a week.

THE DUAL TRUCK-TRACTOR COMPANY

"Modern science knows no stopping place."

The Dual Truck-Tractor Factory, now in its infancy, is located at 901 East Eldorado Street, Decatur, Illinois.

Wonderful progress has been made since entering this building as their factory, August 1, 1919. The Jefferson Machine and Tool Company of Chicago has been purchased and installed, for which they received stock in payment. They were also fortunate in obtaining the proprietors of this company to come into their factory and take an active part. Other additional heavy machinery has been installed, which will enable them to turn out each and every part of the Dual in their factory.

This factory is not an assembling plant. Machines are manufactured in their entirety, with the exception of the motor and electric equipment. They have a complete engineering and drafting department with master drawings and blue prints as well as patterns, nearly all of which are metal, from which their parts are cast.

To the visitor, marvelous efficiency and economy are in evidence throughout the factory.

The Dual Truck and Tractor was organized March 5, 1918, and at a later meeting the following officers were elected: President and General Manager, John K. Gumper; Vice-President, James A. Vent, cashier Hammond State

Bank, Decatur, Illinois; Secretary and Treasurer, W. J. Woolums; and Director of Sales and Advertising, W. H. Woolums, Decatur, Illinois.

The following are names of the Directors of the company: John K. Gumper, President; James A. Vent, Vice-President; W. J. Woolums, Secretary and Treasurer; R. W. Heady, proprietor of the Heady Restaurants, Decatur, Illinois; Fred Brenkman, farmer, Trenton, Illinois; J. F. Stutzman, farmer, Girard, Illinois; W. H. Garvey, farmer, Warrensburg, Illinois; Samuel J. Traxter, farmer, Hammond, Illinois; Jesse L. Hannabery, owner of Mt. Pulaski Oil Company, Mt. Pulaski, Illinois; L. C. Ellison, farmer, auto and tractor dealer, Mattoon, Illinois; and C. M. Ulrick, banker, Springfield, Illinois.

There are also nineteen Advisory Directors.

The Dual Truck-Tractor, Trailer and Air Washer, the products of this factory, are fully protected by United States patents, giving the company monopoly for the life of the patents. They are of universal use both on and off the farm. Every moving part of the Truck-Tractor is protected from dirt, dust, and grit. It is built for long service and is self-oiling, one oiling lasting six months, thus saving two hours each day heretofore used in filling the grease cups on the ordinary machine. This machine also has the powerful Buda Y. T. U. motor—four and one-half by six.

The Dual Truck-Tractor is built on Firestone solid rubber tires. The rear tractor wheels are a cast shell with steel tires, held in place by only four bolts, which can be quickly and easily removed, changing the tractor into a truck within fifteen minutes time. As a truck it runs fifteen miles an hour and will pull three fourteen inch bottom plows on high, plowing nine acres per day. It is equipped with electric starter, generator and lights, and can be used for plowing and pulling a binder all night, should the season demand it. It has a rear axle very unlike other axles in the world, which makes it outstanding in comparison with other machines.

It is twenty horsepower at drawbar and thirty-five horsepower at belt, which is reversible, also removable. It has power which can be used for all hoisting purposes, pulling stamps, removing houses or barns and pulling hedge.

The Dual Truck-Tractor as a runabout operates the same as an automobile, has a speed of twenty-two miles an hour and has the expanding brakes which enables it to stop on steep hills when pulling a load.

This factory also manufactures a complete line of Dual four-wheel steer trailers, three-fourths ton to five tons, and an Air Washer which gives to their machines alone outstanding distinction.

The Air Washer is situated directly back of the radiator head and is a series of water and air chambers, performing their work as component parts of the radiator. The water from the radiator, which passes around the jacket of the engine to keep it cool, automatically dumps into the Air Washer. The air is taken into the Air Washer through an opening just back of the radiator cap, and passes twice through the water before it reaches the combustion chambers of the engine, and at the same time takes the steam off of the radiator. This is the only Air Washer situated where the least dirt is encountered. It prevents dirt, dust and grit from getting to the engine, saves the motor, prevents the formation of carbon and keeps the radiator cool.

The Dual which means two in one—both Truck and Tractor—having so many uses on the farm and off, is truly a universal machine.

The company is preparing to be able to manufacture on an average, one tractor and five trailers per day before the end of the ensuing year.

Judging from the demand, at the present time, for Dual Truck-Tractors, Trailers and Air Washers, Mr. J. A. Scribbins, the company's architect, will be called upon to carry out his plans for their proposed plant in the near future.

THE HOME MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Home Manufacturing Company was established twenty-five years ago in the old Arcade Building where the Lincoln Square Theater now occupies the same site. This industry was organized by Mr. Charles M. Allison. A few years after, this plant was moved to 701 East Eldorado Street for there was need of more room to conduct the business of this firm more efficiently and successfully. Then it was moved seven years ago to its present location, 741 East Eldorado Street. The dimensions of the Home Manufacturing Building are 180 feet by 150 feet. This building is two stories high with a full sized basement.

All the different kinds of machinery in this plant are operated by electricity.

Due to the recency in improvements of machinery, the Home Manufacturing Company at the present time has for its employees the latest labor-saving devices that can be purchased in any market, whether in home or foreign. The causes of the improvements in this factory were not due to enforced legislation, but were due to competition, a desire to please its employees, to create public sentiment, to economize time, labor, and health of employees, and to accomplish a larger output, that is, to satisfy the increasing demands of the public. The results of the improvements on the production have more than doubled, lessened the cost of production, lessened the number of employees, but have required more skilled laborers. This plant now employs one hundred forty employees; namely, pattern designers, spreaders, cutters, assorters, machine operators, finisher, inspectors, machine and hand pressers, folders, markers, shipping clerks, salesmen, bookkeepers, superintendent and assistant superintendent. Thus, specialization of labor is due to the kinds of labor and the method of organization already established in the industry, also the competition of this industry with other industries of the same class.

Physical conditions of the plant visited: good sanitation, private steam heating plant, city furnishes the electric lighting and electric machine power, ample ventilation which is due to plenty of windows and outside entrances. This firm has no rest rooms nor lunch rooms for its employees which is due to lack of room, but the manager expressed his hopes for having them soon. The cloak rooms are individual lockers, the same as found in other public buildings; namely, school buildings, stores, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. Buildings, etc.

The continued labor in the factories has had no bad effects upon the people engaged; that is, the liability to general fatigue or physical strain is not due to influence caused by the factory work, but by outside influence when not employed by the firm. For fifty hours is the required amount of labor to be expected from each employee per week. This company carries a liability insurance on each employee.

Employment in this factory renders excellent educative effects upon employees; such as caution, accurateness, skillfulness, blending of colors, preferences and dislikes of the public gives experience, thriftiness, quality, honesty. Qualifications of employees: no emphasis up to the present time has been placed upon the educational need of the laborers for the performance of the work required. Any person seeking employment in this factory must be "moral, neat, polite, accurate, honest, punctual, in good health, broad enough to take criticism, whether constructive or destructive, thoughtful of their co-workers and can furnish good reference if necessary." There is no opportunity afforded by this firm for its employees for rest and social intercourse during luncheon time.

The Home Manufacturing Company has been of great value to the city of Decatur, Illinois. It has not only furnished employment to hundreds of people in the last twenty-five years, but has improved living conditions. It has aided all of its recent employees to meet the many unexpected emergencies due to the high cost of living

which is the lesson that any war teaches. Many families during the last twenty-five years could not have enjoyed the luxuries and comforts in their homes which they have enjoyed, had it not been for the many opportunities this company has generously given to the members whom it has employed. All the products from this company administer to all people alike. The annual salary budget for this factory amounts to one hundred thousand dollars. At the present time, the officers of this firm have no intention of moving the factory elsewhere.

The Home Manufacturing Company obtains all its materials from eastern cotton mills. From these materials are made children's and women's dresses, aprons, petticoats, also children's bloomers.

As soon as the finished articles just named are ready for the market, they are sold to local dry goods retailers and to individual citizens of Decatur, or shipped to all parts of United States. No finished products are sent out of the boundary of our own home country.

THE OSGOOD MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The firm known as The Osgood-Heiner Manufacturing Company was organized by Messrs. Osgood and Heiner in a small room in the old Powers building in 1901, with ten sewing machines and twelve employees. This firm continued in business at this location for five years, then moved to the top floor of the Akers-Wilson Building, 432 North Water Street, and continued to remain there for fourteen years, then in 1919, the industry was moved to its new and present site, 349 East North Street.

On entering this clean, new, roomy, magnificent building, it is necessary to ascend a short flight of stairs. On the right, is the main office, which is finished in mahogany and fitted up with mahogany office furniture to match. The floors of all of the offices are of tile with cork centers. After passing through the main office westward, Mr.

Osgood's, the general manager's office is located. The fire-proof vault, in an adjacent room, just south of Mr. Osgood's office, is so thoroughly constructed that to be ruined by fire would be impossible. The size of this vault is 8'x10'x8.5' with walls 2' thick. The walls are not solid but hollow in order to prevent danger from fire. The purpose of this vault is to keep all the individual files which include the names of all the firms that this company has previously conducted any business with, and the names of the towns and states from which this company has ever received any orders.

The door on the west of Mr. Osgood's office is the entrance to the room containing the sample case or reference line. On display in the sample case can be seen any day all the pattern dresses that the company uses as its models to make its raw materials into. West of the sample case room is an additional office which is the designer's office. On the designer's desk were seen two fashion magazines, namely, "The Fashion Guide," for which the company pays the subscription price of \$100 per annum, also the "Fashion," \$60 per year, and "The Fashion Review," \$4.00 per year.

The large cutting room which is to the left and south of the designer's office, contains two 100' tables, also the designer's pattern table, 18'x54". This room is also known as the "piece-goods stock-room." On the day when the Ullrich School Committee visited this room, there was in stock over six thousand dollars worth of piece-goods which were used in one cutting, and the general manager on this same day had bought by wire twenty-two thousand dollars of more piece-goods. The reason for buying by wire instead of by letter, the supply of this kind of material is scarce, and the demand so pressing, that in order to obtain enough goods to keep the factory going time could not be lost. The cutting tables in the cutting room are used to spread the piece-goods upon, and upon the piece-goods are placed the patterns. Very often at one cutting, one hundred dozens of dresses are cut. In order

to make so large a cutting the goods are laid thirty dozens or three hundred sixty thicknesses. The cutting is done by a \$350 electrical cutting machine that has a five-inch blade. This machine requires sixty volts of electricity to give it enough power to cause its motor to make thirty-six hundred revolutions per minute.

On this same floor, which is the first floor, is the stock room. The stock room is arranged in twenty-one cabinets. Each cabinet contains eight sections and each section holds thirty dozens of ready-made dresses for children and women. Any section at any time includes four styles each.

On the first floor in the rear part of the building is the shipping room. This room's dimensions are 20'x38', has raised floors, which are of great assistance to the draymen when either importing or exporting goods to the factory. The doors of the elevator in this room are automatic; that is, they close at a temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit, to prevent further spread of fire to the second floor. All over the building there are numbers of automatic sprinklers. The pressure of the water in the sprinklers is one hundred pounds to the square inch. This pressure is furnished by the company. The pressure in the city pipes is only fifty pounds per square inch.

The second floor includes the large sewing room, lunch room and rest room (combined), one cloak room.

In the sewing room there are two rows of the most modern machines that can be purchased in any market. The latest addition to the Osgood Manufactory is a machine for sewing on snaps. In all, there are eighty(?) machines, forty in each row. Each row of machines, in order to be kept running, requires 500 volts of water power.

The second floor is amply lighted by the indirect lighting system. The windows can be so adjusted to obtain the restful, soft, grey light from the north, and to furnish plenty of fresh air for the employees.

In the store room can be found a year's stock of buttons, braid, binding, snaps, hooks and eyes, and countless numbers of spools of thread, needles, etc. Many of the spools of thread contained a yardage of 12,000 yards, about 7 miles. This company uses annually enough thread to equal the circumference of the earth.

Labor in the factories: the educative effects upon the employees are as follows: all employees who ever have or will work in this factory have and will learn many values of many virtues; such as, punctuality, alertness, honesty, courtesy, results obtained through measuring one's ability with another person in the same field of labor, initiative-ness, skillfulness to produce satisfaction to employer and to self, thriftiness, obedience, accurateness, self-control, cleanliness, experience, promptness, modesty, criticism, either constructive or destructive, and personal address. So far, this company has never required any references from its employees concerning educational qualifications, but the general manager expressed his preference in employing high school graduates to non-high school graduates, for high school graduates who had been taught domestic art through the elementary and secondary schools were much more efficient employees than the undergraduates.

Within a few months this factory will be prepared to throw open to its employees ample sized lunch room and rest rooms with complete furnishings. This will afford for all those who participate in the comforts such opportunities as only a modern industry can extend to its employees. This means more rest and time for social intercourse among its employees.

This industry has and will continue to mean much to the city of Decatur, for it has given employment the last nineteen years to many of our residents, it has affected living conditions; it has aided many a person to meet the high cost of living; it has brought comforts to many homes, sometimes luxuries; it has been the means of helping many a person to be able to furnish the necessities of life for

his or her dependents; and its products administer to all classes alike. This industry at present has in its employment seventy-five employees; namely, bookkeepers, stenographers, designers, cutters, inspectors, hand pressers, machine operators, shipping and billing clerks, engineers, salesmen, and custodians, etc.

Any person seeking employment in this industry must possess both a good character and reputation.

The materials which are shipped to this factory, arrive in large quantities, called piece-goods, sometimes as many as sixty to eighty yards in a bolt. This firm purchases nearly all its materials through the aid of a New York agency which sells for the best eastern cotton mills. The same materials that sold for $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents per yard in large quantities less than five years ago can not be bought for less than 36 cents per yard by the case and in small quantities.

A very little amount—only 3 per cent—of the finished products are sold to local merchants; the remainder of output is shipped to all parts of the United States. This company is well represented by efficient traveling salesmen who through competent management keep the amount of ready stock in the stock room low; that is, the orders come in so rapidly, the company with its full force of employees working forty-four hours per week can not supply the heavy demands. The Osgood Manufacturing industry will continue in business at the present location, unless through the growing demands of the public it will be necessary to move to other quarters for the needs of more space to compete with other industries of the same class.

LUMBERING INDUSTRY

THE BUILDERS' LUMBER COMPANY

Most woods used in The Builders' Lumber Company are yellow pine, oak, fir, red gum, hard maple, cypress, and red wood. The fir comes from Washington and Oregon. A great deal of the wood comes from the Western

and Southern States. The most valuable wood in this lumber yard is the golden oak, which is used for furniture. There are sixty-five different kinds of oak. The best hard woods are from the Northern States.

The lumber men have a great deal of work in the office. In the lumber yard, men make window frames and afterwards put glass in them. They make doors and ornamental work, as porch steps and porch pillars. The men in the office keep a record of all sales and the buying of lumber. Workmen make the window cases, porch steps, cabinets, and do all kinds of work except sawing the wood. Machinery is used to saw the wood. The busy season is during the spring, summer, and autumn.

The number of men employed by The Builders Lumber Company is twenty-three or twenty-four. The annual sales amount to three hundred thousand dollars and the annual pay roll amounts to thirty thousand dollars. Each man gets twelve or fifteen hundred dollars a year. They send very little lumber out of Decatur, but when they do, any route is used, according to the direction in which it is sent. When the rough wood is sent away it is just stacked in the car loose, but when finished wood is sent it is either crated or tied.

They employ Americans, as there are many agitators among foreigners. They do not have difficulty in getting men but it is hard to get trained men that know the business. The inexperienced men are difficult to train. The lumber business has increased in the last year. The employees in the lumber yard were each given a goose at Thanksgiving and at Christmas. The company is considering a plan to allow employees, at some future time, a certain per cent of the profits.

DECATUR LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Soft woods are used principally by the Decatur Lumber and Manufacturing Company. The most expensive wood they have is the mahogany, but the most valuable kind is

the quarter-sawed white oak. Other woods are the birch (which is used for ivory furniture), yellow pine, red wood, spruce, and gum. They get their wood from the North and the West. The gum is plentiful and cheap. East India mahogany and walnut wood is very scarce. A great deal of wood comes to this company from Tacoma, Washington. A Tacoma picture was sent to this company showing some logs cut by the Tacoma Fir Door Company. One log cut was 28 feet long $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter at top, $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter at butt. The log contained 12,600 feet of lumber.

There is a great deal of office and yard work to be done, because people are constantly building. The busy season is from the first of March until the latter part of November. All kinds of furniture such as chairs, cabinets, chests and cupboards, is manufactured. Doors are made and ornamental work is done. They have two heavy trucks, and two light trucks and one team of mules for use in delivery. They use two tons of coal a day with the shavings. City electricity is used in the office, but they make their own electricity to run the machinery.

When the men are putting the putty on the windows they use Spanish whitening to keep it from sticking to their hands and it also makes the putty thicker. They use the first floor for the glueing and storage, the second floor for the cutting, the third floor for machinery, and the fourth floor for finishing articles.

The Decatur Lumber Company employs from seventy to eighty men. The company's annual sales amount to three hundred eighty-five thousand dollars a year and they pay out eighty thousand dollars to the employees. They do not have any foreign trade. Not much shipping is done from Illinois. But some shipments are made to Missouri. They use any of the railroads running through Decatur for shipping their lumber.

Most of the employees are Americans. About one-tenth of the men they employ are Germans. Very few are of other nationalities. They have great difficulty in getting

skilled men, and when they get untrained men it is hard to instruct them. The lumber business has increased greatly in the last year. On Christmas they gave each of their employees two dollars and they carry insurance for protection against sickness and injuries of their men.

The company was incorporated in 1887 with a capital stock of about \$30,000. The incorporating members were F. M. Gaddis, James Wiswell, W. J. Huff, H. M. Prescott, T. V. Jones, and W. H. Acuff. The present members are T. V. Jones, J. L. Kitchen, A. S. Knouff, W. L. Hull, L. C. Gaddis, and H. U. Jones. The capital stock now is \$100,000.00 with a surplus of \$130,000.00.

L. SWISHER LUMBER COMPANY

The L. Swisher Lumber Company was organized in 1906, by Mr. L. Swisher, who is the present owner.

The different kinds of woods used are yellow pine, oak, poplar, birch, gum, and fir. The most valuable kinds are oak and birch. Oak is obtained from Missouri and birch from Wisconsin.

There is a good deal of work to be done in the yard and in the office. In the yard, eight men, who are mechanics and bench men, work with the saws. Much built-in furniture, such as bookcases, china closets, and cupboards, is made. Windows and doors are constructed. All the machinery is well guarded to prevent accidents. Eight men deliver material, and four men attend to the work in the office. There are twenty employees. The first floor is used for glueing and cutting, the second, for the storage of finished articles. The power used is electrical. A furnace and stoves provide heat. The ventilation is good. A small room is used by the employees for a lunch room. Recent improvements include a mill and office building.

The annual sales at this lumber yard amount to \$120,000. The amount paid to workmen annually is \$20,000. All employees are Americans. It is difficult to get trained workmen. Machine men and bench men are always in demand. The business has increased greatly the last year.

G. S. LYON AND SONS LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The G. S. Lyon and Sons Lumber and Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1878 by William Gepson, G. S. Lyon, and John Armstrong. The firm was then known as Lyon, Gepson and Company. In 1888 Mr. Gepson sold out to Lyon and Armstrong and this name was given to the company. In 1894 Mr. Armstrong sold out to Lyon and Sons, the present owners. The material used by this company is all kinds of wood. But the most valuable woods are the red oak and the quarter-sawed white oak. Most wood comes from the South or West. Cypress, red gum, and yellow pine come from the South, and the giant redwood from the West.

This company employs sixty men. The employees are all Americans or naturalized citizens. In the yard, the men unload lumber, stack lumber, and load it onto wagons. There are from twelve to fourteen wagons and five teams. They have more wagons than teams so that the teams are never kept waiting. When a load of lumber is brought in they unhitch the horses, then hitch them to a loaded wagon ready for another trip. They also use two automobile trucks.

In January there is a great deal of work to be done in the office. At this time of the year inventories are made to show what material is on hand and what material must be ordered, that they may prepare for the summer rush.

Much built-in furniture, such as cupboards, china closets, and bookcases, is manufactured. In making cabinets and china closets, no nails are used. Glue is used for the construction of these articles. Glue is obtained in flakes and heated in a big iron kettle. When the glue is heated to 150 degrees it is removed, placed in small kettles and kept to use as needed.

The building is protected against fires by steel doors. All doors are kept closed. A sprinkler system is employed, run by their own water supply.

The first floor is used for a workshop in getting the lumber sawed up. Glueing of cabinets and construction of all kinds of doors, window sashes, and screen doors, are all attended to on the second floor.

The company makes electricity for its own use. There is a large fan on the first floor which is used to take shavings from all machines to the furnace. Steam heat is used all over the building.

THE DECATUR MALLEABLE IRON COMPANY

There is no metal known to man more useful than iron. The fundamental principles of all industries are founded on iron, and hardly a day passes that we do not use it in some form.

There are different kinds of iron; in this story we are interested in malleable iron. There is every reason to believe that this particular kind of iron was used among the early Greeks and Romans. The early process must have been very crude as compared to the modern methods.

Malleable iron foundries are located in England and United States. The largest foundries are located around the Great Lakes, because of great commerce for castings in that region.

The Decatur Malleable Iron Company is located northeast of Decatur, Illinois, and faces Curtis Street. The men who established this plant, were interested by the Chamber of Commerce in the plant of the Curtis Motor Truck Company and took over the idle plant in June, 1916. They have more than doubled the buildings and doubled their output in the last two years and expect to again double their plant in the next few years.

Their property consists of ten acres, four of which are covered by buildings. The two main buildings contain the core room, cleaning, grinding, annealing, and shipping rooms. There are several other buildings, the main office, pattern and pattern storage sheds. It is a cor-

poration with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).

This industry employs over two hundred people, of which fifty per cent are foreigners and fifteen per cent are women. The women do special work, such as making and cleaning cores.

The raw materials used to make malleable castings are pig iron produced by blast furnaces, scraps of malleable iron, and silica sand, moulding sand, and fire brick and fire clay. Pig iron comes from Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Moulding sand comes from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Silica sand comes from Central Illinois, lake sand from Indiana, fire brick from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois, and fire clay comes from Missouri.

Pig iron with iron spruce and scraps are trucked from the storage yard, weighed and put into large buckets which are lifted by air hoists and dumped into a melting furnace. The iron is heated by the use of coal until it reaches its proper mixture and temperature, when it is tapped from the furnace into ladles on trucks or carried by molders to sand moulds. These molds are made by pressing metal patterns into the sand and ramming the sand about it, then removing the pattern and putting sand cores where you do not wish the melted iron to flow.

When the metal has cooled, the moulds are dumped on the floor and the castings are then taken into the hard iron room where they are cleaned in tumbling mills and inspected. The castings are ground in the grinding room and then taken into the annealing room, and packed into large stands or pots and surrounded by dead iron and slag and placed in annealing ovens. Here they are slowly heated and cooled for seven days and nights, the iron undergoing a change from hard iron to malleable or iron that will bend a certain amount without breaking.

The castings are then taken out of these pots and again cleaned in tumbling mills and sand blast machines, and

they are again inspected to make sure they are in good condition before they are sorted.

The castings are then placed into bags and weighed and sent to different customers in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, and New York.

The castings are used in the manufacture of automobiles, in agricultural implements, railroad equipments, and different industrial uses.

The transportation of raw materials and finished products is taken care of by the Illinois Traction System, the Wabash, the Pennsylvania, the Illinois Central, and the C. I. & W.

DANZEISENS PACKING HOUSE

Decatur's largest packing house, Danzeisen's, is located in the south part of the city near the Illinois Central Railroad. The nearness of the railroad makes shipping very convenient.

Before the year 1909 Danzeisen's was just a retail house. In that year the building was destroyed by fire. When it was rebuilt it was made larger and became a packing house.

The average work per week is as follows: eight hundred hogs, eighty to one hundred cattle, twenty sheep and twenty calves. The reason they do not kill more animals is that this is enough to meet the demands of the people. About forty-five men are employed daily.

In tracing a pig through the packing house we see it go in alive and come out as sausage, hams, bacon, shoulders, and lard. In going on this journey it passes through the killing room, coolers, cutting, curing, smoking, and packing rooms.

Danzeisen's have their own dynamo which furnishes all the power for their light, cooling, and for running machinery.

Animals are secured daily from farmers around Decatur, cities nearby, and from places as far away as Omaha, Nebraska. No meat is shipped outside of Illinois, for this packing house does not have government inspection.

THE MACON COUNTY COAL COMPANY

The Macon County Coal Company is located in the south part of the city, in the seven hundred block between South Franklin and Main Streets. It is about fourteen years old. Bituminous coal is mined.

The mine is about six hundred feet deep and the vein is about four feet thick on the average.

The coal is mined by hand. It is loosened in the vein by digging dirt out from beneath it and driving a bar in and pulling it down with a pick. The miners use explosives only when they come to a hard layer of rock. After the coal is loosened in the vein it is loaded onto cars.

The slate is separated from the coal as it is loaded on the cars. Then it is hoisted to the tippie. When the coal is hoisted to the tippie it is dumped on an iron screen which sorts the coal into different sizes.

There are about one hundred and eighty men employed in this mine. They mine an average of eight hundred and fifty tons per day. Most of the coal mined in Decatur is used in the city, the remainder being shipped away.

There is also another mine in Decatur in the one hundred block North Broadway. It is called the Decatur Coal Company.

DECATUR'S WATER SUPPLY

When a family or factory chooses a new location, one of the most vital features of the place to be considered is its water supply. Water must be plentiful in case of drought or fire and adequate for the use of factories. It must be pure to prevent disease, and should be reasonably priced to keep down the high cost of living.

The Sangamon River, Decatur's source of water supply, drains a watershed covering 860 square miles. If its water were properly impounded it would supply all the families and factories which Decatur can hope to have in future years.

Decatur officials are planning the construction of a dam across the Sangamon River near the present site of the County Bridge. This dam will form a lake which will store up water for Decatur. It is expected that it will be completed before January 1st, 1921. It is to be about 1,500 feet long and wide enough for a wagon road. The lake which the dam will cause to be formed will cover about 3,000 acres and will be from eleven to fifteen miles in length and about one and one-half miles wide. It will impound about four billion gallons of water.

The cost of this improvement will be about one and a quarter million dollars, including the actual cost of the dam, cost of the land covered by the lake and the necessary raising of roads and bridges, and will be raised by special taxation.

These are some of the advantages and benefits which Decatur hopes to derive from the investment of this money in water compounding,—

It will make Decatur grow. Factories will recognize the advantages offered and will wish to locate here. Factories bring families.

It will make Decatur a better city by furnishing to her residents all the amusements which a large body of water affords. There will be an opportunity for skating, fishing, rowing and the use of motor boats. Swimming will be provided in properly constructed pools. It will improve our park system and add many delightful roads for motor-ing. Decatur will make the vicinity of the lake a playground for both old and young.

Sangamon River water is unusually pure and free from harmful germs, but to make it doubly safe for her people Decatur provides a filter plant where water is clarified, purified and tested by chemical processes. No epidemic of a serious nature has ever been traced to the drinking of city water. Decatur's drinking water is pure.

Decatur has the lowest water rate of any city of its size in the state of Illinois.

To families and small consumers of less than 5,000 gallons per quarter, water is furnished at \$1.00 per 5,000 gallons.

Consumers of from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons per quarter pay \$1.50.

When water is used in very large quantities, as by factories, it costs 4 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Upon Decatur's assured plentiful supply of pure, cheap water depends largely her hope for future growth and prosperity, and her promise of a better Decatur for both young and old. Watch Decatur grow!

UNITED STATES WIRE MAT COMPANY

The United States Wire Mat Company was established in 1901 on Industry Court, but owing to its growth the erection of a new building was necessary. The second building is now located on the corner of East Wood and Franklin Streets, which is the main office building. The first building is used now for packing and making of their own machinery.

The main products of the factory are the Flexible Wire Mat and ten different makes of Fly Swatters, although many other products of less importance are made here.

The Wire Mat is partly responsible for the growth and permanence of the United States Line.

The original fly swatter was made by this company and their most widely distributed product. It is used as much in its home country as in foreign lands, being exported to Europe, North and South Africa, Asia, Australia, South America, and Java.

During the World War this fly swatter was known as a friend to every soldier, whether in the camps or hospitals. One reported he would just as soon die as be without his swatter.

In fact almost every place you find flies you will find one of those United States death-dealing fly swatters made in Decatur.

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THE DECATUR TENT & AWNING CO.

The Decatur Tent & Awning Co., located at 140 North Franklin Street, was established in 1879.

At the Tent & Awning Co. they make tents of all kinds, awnings, sleeping porch curtains, stack covers, and other canvas goods of all kinds. The tents and awnings are used in the warm weather, therefore the spring and summer are the busy seasons. At that time they employ about six people, and at other times about three.

The material is obtained from jobbing houses in Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, and sometimes New York. Their factory has a great amount of business around central Illinois. Sometimes they get orders from Arkansas and other outside states. The gypsies like the style of tents that the Tent & Awning Co. makes, therefore they get many orders from them.

THE DECATUR COFFIN COMPANY

The Coffin Company of Decatur, which is located on the corner of North Morgan and East North Streets, was established in 1873 by T. T. Roberts, O. Z. Greene, and Captain R. P. Lytle. A few years later Captain Lytle retired from the firm, the business was continued by Mr. Roberts and Mr. Greene, and incorporated by them in 1882. Mr. Greene died several years ago and Mr. Roberts was president from this time until his death in November, 1919. No successor has yet been appointed. The factory is a five-story structure occupying six city lots. Of the one hundred fifty large and small coffin factories in the United States, the Decatur plant ranks among the best and is about tenth in size. The employees of the plant number one hundred twenty-five, counting men and women. The hard wood products used are walnut, oak and mahogany, and come mostly from Arkansas, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The soft wood products come from Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Pacific Coast. California red wood is used for crating. Very ex-

pensive cloth such as silk, broadcloth, and lace, comes from France and Japan. Ninety-five percent of the trade is carried on outside of Macon County.

UNION IRON WORKS

The Union Iron Works was incorporated in 1882 and re-incorporated in 1913. The officers are: President, Porter J. Millikin; Vice-President, H. C. Dempsey, the other offices unfilled being under advisement. This organization employed between one hundred twenty-five and one hundred fifty persons. The trade of the organization extends throughout the United States and foreign countries. Everything in grain handling machinery is made at the plant of the Union Iron Works. The materials used are from Pennsylvania, and hard oak from northern timbers, also sheet iron from various United States mills. The Union Iron Works has been in Decatur about forty years, and during that time it has proved very useful to the industrial power of this city.

THE E-Z OPENER BAG COMPANY

The E-Z Opener Bag Company has had its plant in Decatur for eight years. Mr. H. D. Warner is the manager of the Decatur plant. The company has five plants altogether. Three of the plants are engaged in making the paper bags, while the remaining two make the paper from the pulp sent to them from the pulp mills.

The three plants that are engaged in making the bags are situated in Decatur, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana, and Orange, Texas. One paper mill is situated at Taylorville, Illinois, while the other is in Indiana.

The pulp is sent to the mills from the yellow pine pulp mills in the South, and the spruce and hemlock mills in the North. Then the paper is sent to the three plants mentioned above and the paper bags are made.

The output of bags daily in the Decatur plant is two million five hundred thousand. They also use every day

twenty-five tons of paper in making the bags and one thousand pounds of flour in making the paste. They have fifty machines working all the time and employ two hundred men and women. At noon these people are furnished with coffee, which is a satisfactory convenience.

The paper bags are sent to almost every state in the Union, but none are exported outside of the United States.

These fifty machines are hard at work making various kinds of bags. They are made in different sizes and colors. The brown bags are made out of paper from the yellow pine and the white bags are made out of paper from the spruce and hemlock trees. The yellow bags are dyed. They make grocers' bags, milliners' bags and bags for the dry cleaners. The sugar bags are made extra heavy. If the buyer wishes to have an advertisement printed on the bags, the company will do it for him.

The sacks are packed in packages of five hundred lots, and ten thousand of them make a bale. The E-Z Opener Bag Company's trade mark is just merely the words "Trade Mark."

The plant is situated by the Wabash Railroad and Pine Street.

THE FLINT, EATON & COMPANY

This business was started in February, 1897.

Its first home was in a small basement room in the Millikin Bank building, having a total floor space of 230 square feet. From there the business was taken to West Wood Street, to rooms of 700 square feet of floor space. After two years, it was again moved, this time to West Main and Church Streets, to two rooms of 1500 square feet of space. Here it remained for about five years, when it was located at the corner of East Main and Franklin Streets. Here 3600 square feet of floor space were occupied for twelve years, moving to its present quarters April 1, 1917, where they have 17,000 square feet of floor space.

They are occupying about eighty times as much room as they did in the beginning. They sell to physicians only. The first few years they supplied fluid goods only, but the line of goods made has gradually developed until now they make liquids, ointments, powders, tablets, and in fact about everything the dispensing physician needs in his practice. This is all sold in bulk packages at wholesale to them. The firm was incorporated under its present name fifteen years ago. They employ ten traveling salesmen and fifteen people are regularly employed at the laboratory.

The capacity of the tablet department is 400,000 tablets per day. One machine makes about 400 per minute. To make these tablets the raw material is ground, mixed and put on shelves to dry. This is then put in a big kettle to be made into finer powder. Two five-pound balls are put in on top of the powder. This is rolled around until the powder is very fine. It is then put in the tablet machine to be made into tablets. It is a very simple way, as you only have to keep the machine in order and filled. Those tablets that are to be sugar coated are put in a syrup. These uncolored tablets are put in a big kettle with the color mixture in it. They also are rolled around until they are thoroughly coated. Next they are dried and put in bottles, sealed up, and sent to various physicians.

The raw materials come from Egypt, Peru, South Sea Islands, Russia, United States, and practically from all over the world.

HISTORY OF THE DECATUR DRUG STORE

On April 1, 1897, Mr. H. C. Burks, who came here from Chicago, bought the drug store which was in the old Opera building where the Powers building and the Orlando Hotel now stand.

Although others had failed in this same location, Mr. Burks was able to make it a paying business.

He called his place of business the Opera House Pharmacy, later changing it to the Decatur Drug Store.

It was forty feet by fifty feet, and his stock was valued at twelve hundred dollars. Mr. Burks with the help of one boy ran this place for two years.

They sold drugs, candies and ice cream. Also for three years they sold opera tickets. Mr. Frank A. McBride came in 1899 as clerk. Mr. H. L. Roth, who is now vice-president, came as errand boy in 1900, and in 1901 Mr. McBride went on the road selling drugs to doctors of small towns. Other clerks took his place.

Mr. McBride resigned and Mr. Alfred Platt and Mr. Mallory took his place. Mr. McBride came back in 1908 and traveled for them until May 1, 1919.

Now Mr. Robert Johnson, formerly of the Park Davis Co., Detroit, Mich., and Mr. Stevens, formerly of the J. T. Millikin Co., St. Louis, travel for them.

Business increased until rooms were so crowded that in 1909 they moved to 331-333 North Water Street. This store is forty feet by one hundred fifty feet, and the shelves measure 5310 feet.

They incorporated the business in 1915, with Mr. H. C. Burks as president, Mr. H. L. Roth as vice-president, and Mr. W. J. Dearth as secretary and treasurer.

They have now bought a five-story building, 334-355 North Water Street, which they are remodeling.

This is to be their permanent home. It will be sixty feet by one hundred fifty feet. They will be in the new store about February 1, 1920.

When this store started Mr. Burks attended it with the help of an errand boy for two years. It now employs thirty-six people. It has grown to be the largest wholesale drug store in Illinois outside of Chicago and Peoria.

THE SUFFERN-HUNT MILLS

The Suffern Hunt Mills are owned by the American Hominy Company, whose headquarters are in Indianapolis. There are seven branches, four of which are located in In-

diana, one in Terre Haute, one in Mount Vernon, and two in Indianapolis. There are also three mills in Decatur, Illinois. Mr. Bates is president of the company.

Two of these mills, Plants E and G, having three private tracks, and employing one hundred men, are located on the Wabash Railroad, between Union and Church Streets. The height of the mill proper is one hundred ten feet, while that of the corn elevator, which has a capacity of three hundred thousand bushels, is one hundred twenty-five feet. The new wheat refinery will hold eighty thousand bushels, and is one hundred thirty-five feet high. Both the smokestack and water tower are one hundred fifty feet in height. There are four large boilers. The exhaust steam runs through a pipe to the cooling pond outside, which has a capacity of five hundred thousand gallons of water. Here it is sprayed into the air through thirty sprayers, this process converting it into water. It is then taken back to the boilers, where it is used again. There are also thirty-five motors, and a one-thousand horse power turbine. The new wheat mill will be operated by electricity. Mill C, also situated on the Wabash Railroad, is on the corner of Water and Cerro Gordo Streets. Feed is manufactured here. Corn is shipped in from Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Illinois. Only the white is used, as this contains two per cent more nourishment than yellow. The capacity of the cars vary from seven hundred fifty to twenty-two hundred bushels. The Chicago Board of Trade determines the price. The market opens at nine-thirty in the morning, and closes at one-fifteen in the afternoon, the bids usually being ready by two o'clock. This Board of Trade communicates the price to the mills. They then telephone to the elevators from which they wish to buy, stating the rate they are willing to pay.

The corn is unloaded by a steam power weigher holding eight bushels. Next it is deposited in hoppers, and then into bins, where it is weighed. After this it is carried to the top of the elevator. It is then conveyed to the main mill, weighed again, and put into another bin having a capacity of five hundred bushels.

After being weighed, the corn goes through a trough containing magnets, which remove the nails, screws, and other bits of iron collected during the unloading. A pail of these a week is the average amount extracted. This having been done, the corn is put into another trough, inside of which is a conveyor, ninety feet in length. Boiling hot water is then turned on to loosen the hulls, after which it goes through a hulling machine, where the skins are completely removed. These are afterwards pressed together, and used as a food for cattle. Next comes the extraction of the heart, or germ of the corn, which is done by a large machine. About one carload of these a week is sent to Indianapolis, Plant A, where the oil is taken out. Three pounds of this to every bushel is the average. The kernels are then broken into small particles.

The corn is next ground, the average amount in twenty-four hours being ten thousand bushels, although fifteen thousand has been the output. The speed of the process of grinding is forty miles per hour. It is then sifted through different size silk meshes, the product gradually growing finer, until when finished it is scarcely distinguishable from wheat flour.

The foods manufactured are as follows: Corn flour, called "Over the Top," grist, hominy, cream meal and feed. Two thirds of the corn ground is used for food purposes, and one third for feed.

The sacks used come ready made from the Bemis Company, St. Louis, Missouri. Hominy, grist and feed are sacked in burlap, and cream meal and corn flour in cotton sacks. Goods are packed in amounts weighing from three to two hundred three pounds, and some for export in two hundred twenty pound quantities. Much of the sewing is done by machinery, although some is done by hand.

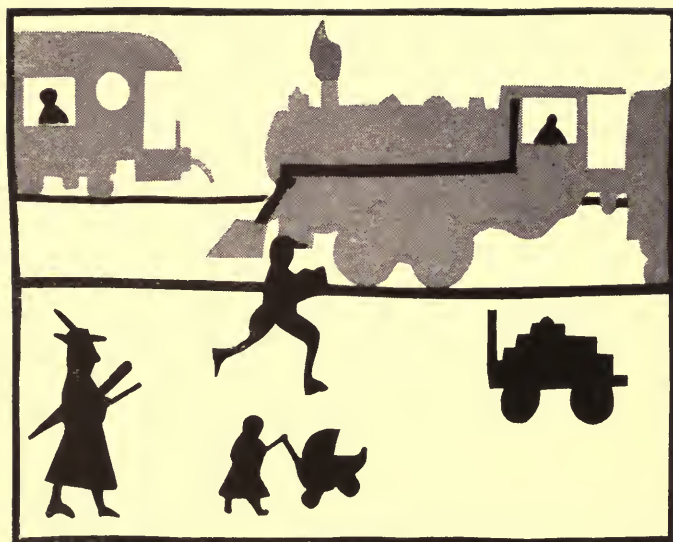
Hominy feed, for cattle, is sold all over Eastern United States. Coarse and medium grit, used for breakfast food, is furnished the Southern trade in carloads, and a large amount of hominy is sent to California for canning purposes. Very little exporting is done.

For the protection of the men, these plants are equipped according to government requirements. The sprinkler system is used in case of fire. Each floor is also provided with one barrel of water and two pails, to be used in an emergency.

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CLARENCE WIKOWSKY 7A '20



RAYMOND KILEEN 7A '20

CHAPTER V

DECATUR'S TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

DECATUR AS A RAILROAD CENTER

As a railroad center Decatur ranks second among all the cities of Illinois, Chicago, of course, being first. Of the various factors working together to establish this city thus high among the commercial cities of our state, the transportation facilities undoubtedly lead. It is true that the wonderful fertility of the surrounding area has caused rapid growth of many large cities which make a splendid market for our manufactured products. In this territory, surpassing any in the world in the value of its producing acres, agriculture is carried on extensively. This means that manufacturers of farm implements will find a splendid market for their products. Valuable land tends to create a general prosperity among the people living on it. Prosperous people coming into the city to buy and sell aid materially in its commercial development. Nothing, probably, has helped more in getting these outside people interested than the business men who through their aggressiveness arouse the people and make them aware of their city's commercial standing. But these two factors are of minor importance when we consider what the transportation facilities have done in developing our city commercially. A glance at the map will show us why we should be so fortunate. Centrally located in a rich territory, the city attracts builders of railroads. Lines crossing the state from north to south or from east to west pass through here. Not only is it centrally located in the state, but among the cities of the entire nation it stands almost in the center. As a result, traffic of all kinds must pass over these lines.

In the early years of our history the obstacle that stood in the way of our advancement was the lack of these facilities. Our produce could find no market because of the

difficulty in shipping it. Wagons had to be used in hauling grain, and the cattle and hogs had to be driven to a market. Because the markets were few and necessarily near home, the prices were low. But with the coming of the first railroads into Decatur, a change came. Then the material advancement of the city began, settlement began in earnest. Agriculture in the surrounding country began to develop and the factories grew up. During the twenty years following the building of the first railroad, the population increased about twenty times what it did during the twenty years preceding. This increased population was a result of factories which had come to the city because of its easy means of transportation. At the present time there are running through Decatur four great railroad systems—the Wabash began in 1850, Illinois Central in 1854, Vandalia and C. I. & W. From these four main systems twelve lines branch which connect us directly with all principal cities, including Chicago, Peoria, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Memphis, New Orleans, Evansville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Toledo, Pittsburg, New York and Detroit. These can be reached without change of cars. This direct access to the key cities of our states puts us in touch with all points of the world, since several of them are coast cities, important as ports for ocean commerce.

Due to the fact that so few raw materials are available in the vicinity, practically all our manufactured products are made of materials shipped here from outside points. Practically every material used in industry, arts, or commerce finds its way in and out of Decatur over these twelve railroad lines. The raw materials imported in large quantities are, iron and steel from Pennsylvania, copper and brass from Chicago, corn, wheat, aluminum and dairy products. Marble comes from New England, lumber, including, oak, hickory, hemlock, cedar, mahogany from the west; leather from Chicago, silks from the Orient, sugar, molasses, broom corn and tobacco from the south, paper, cotton goods, woolens, wire, sheet metals from the east. The mere handling of these articles creates extensive business.

The raw materials intended for manufacturing must be carted to factory or warehouse. This means the engagement of motor trucks and men to run them. Products manufactured from these materials are shipped to every part of the United States and to some foreign countries, including South America, Europe, Canada, and to a less extent Asia and Australia. The factories shipping most finished products to foreign nations are Staley's, Union Iron Works, Decatur Bridge Works, Muellers, Faries, Leader Iron Works. The foreign trade at present is in an uncertain state. The settlement of some important questions will decide its extents later. The value of the manufactures of Decatur is about \$25,000,000, probably more. The greatest part of this is sent out to other cities and countries. The freight trains bringing in raw stuffs and taking out finished products number about ninety-four daily. The freight charges collected here for 1919 amount to about \$2,810,000.

The railroad lines however are not used for shipping in of raw materials only and sending out Decatur products, but for passenger service as well. Decatur's business men have interested many people of surrounding country in their city. As a result we have many people coming in daily to do business here. Being so centrally located, it is also a place where traveling people make changes. The Illinois Central office sells on the average six hundred tickets per day. It is estimated one thousand two hundred to fifteen hundred passengers pass through Decatur daily. Passenger trains in and out daily number about forty-seven. About three thousand people are employed in railroad work in Decatur, the pay-roll amounting to about \$10,000,000 in 1919.

The exceptionally good facilities are rapidly making of Decatur an industrial center. It is true that we have few raw materials near at hand—grain, clay, and gravel being the only ones—but our railroads make it possible to have things brought in for our factories. Since we are located in such wonderfully productive area where prosperity

reigns, our market is good. Fuel is cheap and our labor conditions unusually favorable. This attracts working classes, energetic, progressive people to work in the plants.

And what has the future in store for us? Our industrial supremacy will attract more factories, which in turn will call for more laborers and added railroads to take care of the products. In time paved highways will be built for the use of motor transports. The roads at the present time are not hard enough to bear the heavy hauling. This method of transportation will be used to carry things between points seventy-five to one hundred miles apart, since it is much cheaper. With continued growth the plan of a water route direct to the south will also be projected. This would be possible by dredging the Sangamon and connecting it with Illinois by means of a canal. Ships could then leave here, pass through the canal into the Illinois, then down to New Orleans on the Mississippi. This would put us into better touch with South America, one of our chief foreign markets. The lessening of the freight charges accomplished by this plan can hardly be estimated.

THE ILLINOIS TRACTION SYSTEM

The Illinois Traction System has grown in the past eighteen years from six miles of track lying between Danville and Westville, built as an experiment by W. B. McKinley, to its present size of 550 miles. The road is now equipped with all modern equipment for the safety, convenience and comfort of its patrons. Its road-bed compares favorably with that of steam roads and are so designed that the heaviest freight and passenger service may be handled economically.

The main division of the Illinois Traction System extends from Peoria on the north to St. Louis on the south, a distance of 174 miles. At Mackinaw Junction, about twenty miles south of Peoria, the Bloomington and Decatur Division branches off from the main division and extends as far east as Danville, a distance of about 125 miles, serving Decatur, Champaign and Urbana, and many

intermediate points. There are three lines which enter from the east, west and north, thereby giving Decatur access to the central and southern part of our state whose population is estimated to be about 3,000,000 people.

The I. T. S. furnishes Decatur with street car service, gas, electricity, and steam heat, as well as the conveniences it furnishes in its own service, such as parlor and sleeping cars, fast merchants' dispatch freight service, general freight trains that transport heavy loads of coal and grain.

The frequency of its service and access to the rural district being of prime importance, the Decatur freight office averages handling 12,000 tons of freight per month.

It gives the housewives the same opportunity for saving money and becoming posted on the season's fashions as her city sister and this feature has had the effect on the people who live in the country making as good an appearance and whose clothing is as up-to-date as a city woman.

The children of the farmer can receive the advantages of the city and still remain at home, thereby working as a factor in keeping our boys on the farm.

Visit our churches, theatres or good concerts or lectures, and we will find a good sprinkling of our farmer folk, who instead of going to bed with the chickens, may now come to the city for an evening's entertainment and be back home at a reasonable bedtime.

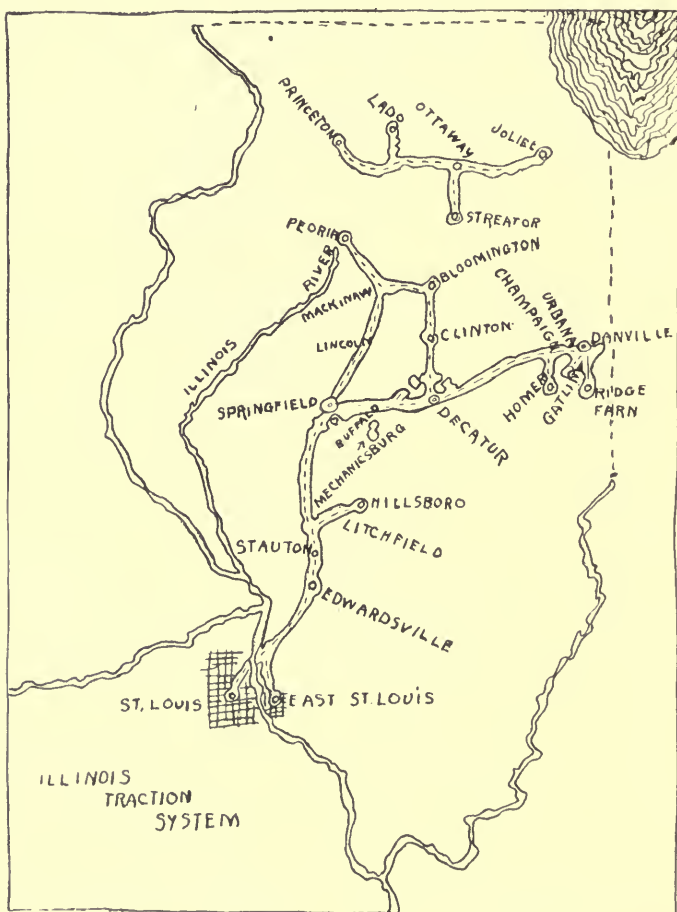
The advantages are not all for the farmer, however. It brings the produce fresh from the farm every day and they do not grow stale in the transit before reaching the consumers. This means of transportation has bound the city and country in a union both pleasant and profitable to both. There are milk and produce trains in operation every day.

These are a few items to describe the benefits which have come to Decatur by the use of the Illinois Traction System.

With the growth of the Illinois Traction System Decatur has almost doubled in population. A great many

factories have been built. The mercantile business has increased many times. Frequency of service and access to the adjacent country are the most important advantages of service afforded this section by the Illinois Traction System.

The Illinois Traction System is a great help to Decatur and to the farmers that live around the city outside of a 10-mile radius by enabling them to bring their produce to town.



Number of miles operated by the I. T. S.....	431.90
Miles of passing tracks, sideways, etc.....	32.54
Miles of industrial track.....	13.52
Miles of shop and yard track.....	13.15
Population served by the road.....	3,000,000
Number of passenger cars.....	150
Number of freight cars.....	722
Number of express cars.....	177
Number electric locomotives	21
Number of sub-stations	40
Number central power stations	4
Number of belt lines.....	4
Number of miles protected by electric block signals	150

STREET CARS OF DECATUR

Street cars were first used in Decatur on August 27, 1889.

The first car line was owned by Frank Priest and ran from where the transfer house now stands to the depot.

There are now twenty-three cars on regular schedule, which are as follows: Eldorado, four cars, which run every seven minutes; Condit, three cars, running every twelve minutes; Water Street, three cars, running every eight minutes; Edward, four cars, running every seven minutes; West Main, three cars, running every eight minutes; Depot, two cars, running every seven minutes; Pythian Home, one, running every fifteen minutes; Fairview, one car, running every fifteen minutes; and Riverside, two cars, running every fifteen minutes.

The cars begin running at 5:30 in the morning, and continue until 11:30 at night.

Each car bears a large letter on the front of it, which makes it very convenient for the passengers. For instance, the Depot Street Car bears a large "D" on the front of it.

There are fourteen miles of street car track, but sixteen miles, if the switches are included.

New cars are now used on the Eldorado and Edward routes.

They are known as the "Safety" Car, and are provided with two trolleys.

The entrance and exits are at the front of these cars, only: This means: that should it ever be necessary, one man only could operate one of these cars alone. It is often necessary to use extra cars on the Eldorado line, which proves that the northeastern part of the city is growing very rapidly. Motormen and conductors work nine hours a day at the rate of forty-two cents per hour.

The transfer house is located in the central part of the city at the intersection of North Main and West Main Streets. All street cars but the Fairview, transfer at this station. It is much better to wait for a car at the transfer house than at a street corner.

The street car fare is but five cents, including a transfer. In most other cities it is seven cents or more.

The citizens appreciate the fact that the fare has not been raised in Decatur.



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CHAPTER VI

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

THE MACON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Wayne Parrish, 7 A, Lincoln School.

The Macon County Court House of Decatur, Illinois, is situated on the southeast corner of East Wood and South Water Streets. It is divided into twenty-one offices and two courts—the County Court and the Circuit Court.

The County Court tries cases of common law where the amounts do not exceed one thousand dollars. They try cases known as criminal cases which are divided into two classes, the first, felony, in which the punishment is imprisonment in the penitentiary; the second, misdemeanors, in which the punishment is by fine or by imprisonment in the county jail. This court also tries insane and tax cases. This court has three terms of court a year, the first beginning on the second Monday of April, the second on the second of August and the third on the second Monday of December. The judge is elected to his position by the people. There is a Probate Court which is a division of the County Court. This court tries juvenile cases. It may sentence a boy up to the age of seventeen to St. Charles, and a girl up to the age of eighteen to Geneva. It takes care of children whose parents neglect them. This court has twelve terms of court, therefore it is in session all the time. The first term begins on the first Monday of January and is in session until the first Monday of February, and so on for the rest of the year.

The Circuit Court has the most power and is therefore the highest court in the county. This court may try any kind of case. The Circuit Judge has power in six counties, Macon, De Witt, Douglas, Moultrie, Piatt and Champaign. The judge for Macon County is Judge W. K. Whitfield; for Champaign County, Judge Franklin H. Boggs, and Judge G. A. Lentle for De Witt County. This court has

three terms of court, the first in Macon County beginning on the second Monday of January, the second on the second Monday of May, and the third on the first Monday of October.

The Circuit Clerk's office keeps the record of real estate transactions. It is where foreigners get their naturalization papers. Suits are filed here so as to be heard before the Circuit Judge. One person holds the position of Circuit Clerk and Recorder.

In the County Clerk's office marriage and hunting licenses are issued, and here is kept the record of all births and deaths.

The Abstract Office is where the history of a title of land, beginning with the title in the United States of America, is written and kept. Abstracts are ordered when any real estate changes hands. The abstractor writes down the record of the title and it is passed on by a lawyer usually.

The City Clerk has his office in the Court House.

The City Council, the Mayor and the Commissioners meet and have their office in the Court House, too. The Council meets every Monday and Thursday of each week.

The Building Inspector issues permits for new buildings to comply with the city building ordinance. He sees that they put no shingles on houses and buildings in the fire district. He may condemn buildings if they are not safe and sanitary.

The Police Office or Police Headquarters is also in the Court House.

The Sheriff's office is also here. The Sheriff has power to arrest a man violating state laws on a state warrant. He has charge of the prisoners, sends boys to St. Charles, girls to Geneva, and others to the penitentiary. He has power in many parts of the state. He enforces state laws and is elected by the people.

The Overseer of the Poor has an office in the Court House. His duty is to look after the poor. He sends them to the county home and sends those who are sick to the hospital. He supplies coal to those who need it and see that the poor have plenty to eat.

In the Tax Collector's office the taxes are levied for the city, the township, the county and the state. The money is divided and used for improvements in different ways.

The State's Attorney prosecutes all men and women and boys who violate laws. He helps the children whose parents neglect them.

The Superintendent of County Schools has his office in the Court House also. He has charge of the schools outside of the city limits and inside the county.

The Board of Supervisors meets in the Court House. There are now thirty members from different parts of the county.

The Parole Officer, at present Elsie Waggon seller, has an office with the Overseer of the Poor. She is elected by the Board of Supervisors.

The County Surveyor has his office in the Court House.

The Board of Farm Advisers has its headquarters in the Court House.

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Decatur Public Library is located on the southwest corner of Main and Eldorado Streets.

It is a large rectangular concrete building.

The building was begun March 27, 1902, and was ready for use July 1, 1903. Andrew Carnegie gave \$60,000 for the building. The city gave \$15,000 for the site.

As you enter you find yourself in the vestibule from which you go through another door into the main room. On the south of this room are the reference or study rooms. There are about 2,000 volumes in this department. Behind these rooms are the two smaller rooms which are used for meetings of various kinds.

North of the main room is the reading room which has about 250 magazines, books and papers.

Back of the main desk are the stacks which contain between 20,000 and 25,000 books for circulation. At the right and east of the reading room are the offices of the librarian. Below the stacks is the magazine room, where are found about 4,500 bound periodicals.

The children's department occupies the large room on the north of the second floor. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 books in this room. Just across the hall is the cataloging room where the cards and books are prepared for publication.

At the end of the hall is another room where the directors hold their meetings.

Public documents are in two rooms of basement. The furnace and work rooms are also in this part of the building. The library employs twelve people.

DECATUR POST OFFICE

The Post Office is located on the southeast corner of North Main and Eldorado streets.

It is a large square concrete structure consisting of two stories and basement. It was built in the year 1909 and the money was furnished by the Federal Government.

The main entrance to the building is on North Main Street.

The departments on the main floor are: Mail, Parcel Post, Money Order and War Savings, Lock Boxes and General Delivery. Besides these departments the Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster have their offices on this floor. On the second floor are other rooms occupied at various times by federal officers.

The Mail Department consists of two divisions, which are Mailing and City Distribution. Fifty-four pouches are received by this department daily for distribution to the city and rural districts. The letters are placed on a large table for sorting. The special delivery letters are separated from the others for immediate delivery. Each carrier has a pigeon hole in which the letters for his route are placed. Twenty-nine city carriers and nine rural carriers are employed in distributing the letters and packages.

The Parcel Post department is growing more important each year. The amount of business during the past year exceeded all previous years.

At the present time twenty-seven clerks are employed to carry on the work of the various departments.



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CHAPTER VII**CHURCHES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS****CHURCHES**

There are forty churches in Decatur, ranging in membership from twelve to two thousand. The churches are as follows:

Baptist

First, southeast corner Water and North.
East Park, northwest corner Third and Prairie.
Riverside, corner Traver and Cleveland.
Antioch (colored), 610 Greenwood Ave.

Catholic

St. James (German), corner Webster and Clay.
St. Patrick's, 425 East Eldorado St.

Christian

First, 441 North Church St.
Central Church of Christ, southeast corner William and Edward Sts.

Church of God

Bethel, southwest corner Main and Packard Sts.
Church of God, 412 South Broadway.

Church of the Brethren

First, 404 East Grand Ave.
Progressive, 804 East Orchard St.
Church of the Living God (colored), 325 East Macon St.

Congregational

First, northwest corner Church and Eldorado Sts.

Episcopal

St. John's, northeast corner Church and Eldorado Sts.

Evangelical

First German, 1020 North Woodford St.

Jewish

Congregation of Abraham, over 254 North Park.

Evangelical Lutheran

First English, 303 North Main.

St. Paul's German, 376 West Wood St.

St. Johannes' German, 1104 East Orchard St.

Methodist Episcopal

First M. E., southwest corner Church and North.

Grace, northwest corner Main and King Sts.

St. Paul's, 1600 East North St.

Trinity, southwest corner North and Jackson Sts.

Sargent, 954 South Broadway.

St. Peter's A. M. E. (colored), 530 Greenwood Ave.

Methodist Episcopal Mission, corner Marietta and Calhoun Sts.

Free Methodist

224 East King; Branch, 2338 East Sangamon St.

Presbyterian

First, northwest corner Church and Prairie.

Second, northeast corner Eldorado and Monroc.

Westminster, West Main, northeast corner Park Pl.

United Brethren

First, southeast corner Eldorado and Union Sts.

Second, northwest corner Walnut Grove and Olive.

Third, southwest corner Division and Lowber Sts.

THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

The Association of Commerce consists of about nine hundred members. It is governed by a body of fifteen people elected by the members. This association was organized about twenty years ago. The only paid member of this association is the secretary. It was first called the Chamber of Commerce and later changed to the Association of Commerce.

The interests of this association are not only industrial but cover every phase of life that affects the welfare of the people of Decatur.

This association has brought many factories to the city. It has given us better train service and freight rates. The Macon County Hospital was brought here by its influence. They have been a big help in making Decatur the Biggest Little City on Earth.

The Social Service Bureau was organized in the year 1917. It is governed by a board of fifteen people. They make large drives to get the money needed to carry on the work.

The purpose of the Social Service Bureau is to help the poor people who cannot earn a living by themselves.

There are five different institutions helped by the Social Service Bureau: General, Welfare Home, Free Clinic, Salvation Army, and the Day Nursery.

The General fund is to help the poor buy coal, groceries, pay rent and other things needed.

The Woman's Club was organized in 1887. Its membership now is 250. It is governed by officers elected by the members.

The purpose of this club is to help the women of Decatur bring themselves up to a higher class in life.

The club is divided into four different study divisions. They are the Civic, Art and Literature, Shakespeare, and Psalemas.

The Art and Literature division studies those subjects.

The Psalemas division consists mostly of business women who can not study in the day time. They study different things that will help them in their business career.

The Shakespeare division studies about our great poet. The people recite poems and read about Bible women.

The Civic division studies about the welfare of the city. They try to find the things that will help to make our city a better one.

The Rotary Club has about one hundred and twenty-five members. There is one man from every line of business. The purpose is to promote better acquaintance and fellowship among the men of Decatur.

The St. John's Day Nursery cares for small children whose mothers must work by the day. A fee of five cents is charged.

The purpose of the **Boy Scout Association** is best told in its laws: A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Other civic organizations are as follows: City Club, American Red Cross Society, Macon County Home Bureau, Municipal Art League, Decatur Institution Civic Arts, and Visiting Nurses' Association.

Y. M. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. is a Christian organization for men and boys. It was organized by Sir George Williams in London, England, in 1770; in United States in 1844; and in Decatur in 1907.

The Y. M. C. A. was named Young Men's Christian Association by C. W. Smith. It had only twelve original members and Edward Rogers was one of them.

Any boy who wishes may join by paying the required fee, which ranges from \$2.50 for boys of nine years of age, to \$10 for boys twenty-one years of age. These fees help support the organization.

Each year a drive is put on to cover other expenses.

Members of the association are allowed to take part in certain activities suited to their ages and ability.

The emblem of the Y. M. C. A. is the red triangle with the horizontal bar bearing the letters Y. M. C. A. The sides of this triangle stand for strong minds, strong bodies, and religious development.

The Educational classes are conducted afternoons and evenings. Such subjects as music, shorthand, mechanical drawing, business English, French and Spanish are taught. Any subject asked for can be taken, provided there are enough persons to make up a class.

The Y. M. C. A. is a meeting place for many outside organizations. It has many Christian meetings of its own such as: classes, lectures, and entertainments. It has a library, reading room, gymnasium, billiard tables, and moving pictures once or more each week.

The Y. M. C. A. allows travelers to rest and read, even if they are not members of the organization. There are Y. M. C. A. lunch rooms at railway stations and in their own buildings. The money taken in at these cafeterias helps to support the work.

In Decatur the Y. M. C. A. has outgrown its building. When it was organized it had only a small membership, but now it is so large that we are in need of a new building large enough to accommodate all the present members and the new ones who will join within the next few years. We hope to see a large, commodious building for Decatur in process of construction soon.

Y. W. C. A.

The Y. W. C. A. is the Young Women's Christian Association. It is the largest Christian organization for women and girls in the world. About sixty-four years ago, just after the Crimean War, in the little town of Barnet,

England, Miss Emily Roberts asked several of her friends to band themselves together to pray for young women. Three years later a Ladies' Christian Association was organized in New York City, and in 1866 followed the Young Woman's Christian Association of Boston, the first to bear the name as it now stands. From these beginnings the work developed leaders all through the country.

Any girl, who wishes to do so, may join the association by paying a dollar a year if she is over sixteen. Girls under sixteen pay only fifty cents. The workers of the Y. W. C. A. have a money campaign nearly every year and the money that is collected and membership fees are used to help support it.

The cafeteria supports itself.

The Y. W. C. A. does many kinds of work in Decatur. It decides upon its activities according to the community needs.

The emblem of the Y. W. C. A. which is recognized all over the world stands for service. It is the blue triangle and horizontal bar bearing the letters Y. W. C. A. The upper left point of the triangle represents "others," the upper right point represents "self" or in other words a real Y. W. C. A. girl has a two-fold responsibility—"self" to "others" and "self" to "God."

The Y. W. C. A. has many educational classes and we hope in the very near future to have a boarding home where girls away from home may live.

In Decatur we have the religious work department, girls' work department, emphasizing Girl Reserve Work. The physical department is where girls get health, grace, poise, and beauty. In this department swimming is taught. We have an Industrial Extension department.

The first thing emphasized is the boarding home; first, to develop physically; second, mentally; third, socially; fourth, spiritually.

The Y. W. C. A. is much used as a community center. Many outside organizations meet here for work or recreation. It has many parties for its members and friends. And, too, sometimes lectures and demonstrations are given there. The Y. W. C. A. has a very nice rest room and a reading table, and it has many good books.



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CHAPTER VIII

DEPARTMENT STORES

LINN AND SCRUGGS CO.

The Linn and Scruggs' store was established by W. H. Linn and W. R. Scruggs in October, 1869, just fifty years ago.

The growth of the store has been remarkable. It had its beginning in an old-fashioned three-story building on Merchant Street. Here merchandise only was sold, which was a new idea, as people were used to the old-time general store. From this small store has developed the Linn and Scruggs of which the people of Decatur are justly proud. The store today is under the management of Mr. T. J. Prentice and Mr. J. R. Holt.

The building is a beautiful, seven-story structure, located at the corner of South Water and East Main Street, and covering half a city block. It is thoroughly modern and fireproof. It has a floor space of 67,147 square feet.

Linn and Scruggs employ almost two hundred persons during an ordinary season and an extra force of fifty are added for the holidays. There seems always to be an ideal "atmosphere" in the store: the clerks are neatly dressed, very willing to display their merchandise, and at all times decidedly courteous to customers.

The store is divided into forty-two departments. The most important departments on the first floor are dry goods, gloves, hosiery, perfumery and toilet goods, and notions. The second floor is devoted to millinery, shoes, waists, silk and cotton underwear, furs, suits and coats, besides a beauty parlor and a very comfortable waiting room.

The third floor holds the house furnishings, such as rugs, draperies, curtains, linoleums, wall paper, etc., and in the basement may be found the china, cut glass, cutlery and toys.

The music department occupies a separate building.

It is interesting to know from what places these well-furnished departments are supplied. Some of the facts are as follows: "If one were shopping on the first floor, she could buy dress goods from England, France, Switzerland and Japan, as well as domestic goods. The trimmings such as laces come from Switzerland, England, France and the Philippines; the embroideries from St. Gaul, Switzerland; also silk embroideries, vesting, banding, etc., come from Japan and China, and the bead trimmings from Holland. The housekeeping linens are domestic and foreign, the latter are bot in New York from agents representing manufacturers in Ireland and Scotland. Madeira embroidered linens come from the Madeira Islands. Kid gloves are made in France and England as well as New York city, Gloversville, New York, and North Tonawanda, New York. The knit underwear comes from Minneapolis, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and New York city; the best foreign knit underwear is made in Switzerland. The toilet goods and druggists' sundries come from New York city and Chicago, as well as from France and England.

If one were shopping on the second floor at the Linn and Scruggs store she could buy shoes made by the best manufacturers in the world: The Hannan & Son shoe, made at Brooklyn, New York; the Lownsbury & Mathewson, made at South Norwalk, Connecticut; the Charles K. Fox shoe, made at Haverhill, Massachusetts, and the Williams Hoyt shoe, made in Chicago, Illinois, and many other makes of quality. New York furnishes the greater number of suits, coats, dresses, and furs, which may be bought on this same floor, while Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia and St. Louis add their best to this department. The hats, which are not hand-made, have come from New York, Chicago and Paris.

If one were shopping on the third floor of the Linn and Scruggs store, she could buy wonderful Oriental rugs which have been made in Turkey, Russia, Persia and India; the curtains and draperies in the finest grade have all come from Switzerland; the best linoleums from England and

Scotland and wall paper from New York and England, besides many other domestic-made house furnishings.

The basement of the Linn and Scruggs store holds several very well-furnished departments. The more important ones are: the cut glass, which comes from New York and Toledo, Ohio; the china, which is made in several Ohio cities and also in Syracuse, New York, and in England; the aluminum ware made in Cleveland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and the toys which, since the war, are principally domestic made, except a few from Japan.

Now we should like you to know who, besides the residents of Decatur, reap the benefits of this up-to-date store of quality. Linn and Scruggs have a mail order department and send merchandise to all towns within a fifty-mile radius, also to Wyoming, to Montana, to Porto Rico, and to China. Just recently a shipment of china was sent to Corea and to Penang, Malay Archipelago. They do an unusually big business with Springfield, Illinois; many persons from that city are regular customers and come here to trade in preference to buying from their home stores or those of surrounding cities.

The new music store of the Linn and Scruggs Company has been established on account of the unusual growth of that department. Originally the music department occupied a small space on the third floor of the main store, now it occupies the entire three-story building at 129 North Water Street; originally there were two persons employed in the department, now there are fourteen. The original stock consisted of three pianos; the stock at the present time consists of sixty-five pianos and piano-players, besides many Victrolas, 8,000 Victrola records, 1,500 player rolls, cabinets, benches, etc. The music store uses seven service automobile trucks. This fact gives one an idea of the unusual amount of business which is done.

Linn and Scruggs do a million dollars' worth of business in a year. This seems an unusually large amount for a city of Decatur's size, but it is not to be wondered at when one realizes that this is Decatur's store of quality.

THE WM. GUSHARD DRY GOODS COMPANY

One of Decatur's most prominent department stores is the William Gushard Dry Goods Company, founded by William Gushard in the year 1895. The store located at 735 North Water Street was moved to 207 North Water a year later, and in 1906 it was moved to its present location at the corner of North and Water Streets, to accommodate the growing trade.

Gushards occupy the first three floors and basement of the Wait Building, which is a handsome structure of brick trimmed in gray stone. The store has a total floor space of 48,000 square feet, but recently the company has leased the fourth and fifth floors, which adds about 24,000 square feet. One hundred and sixty people are employed here, a bright, alert force, who give the place a comfortable atmosphere.

Dry goods, laces, gloves, hosiery, shoes, toilet articles and perfumes, notions, and a very popular postal sub-station are the chief departments on the first floor. There are silks from Japan, China and France, linens from Ireland, gloves of French kid from Paris and of other materials made in Gloversville, New York, shoes from factories in the eastern cities of our own country, beads, toilet goods and perfumes from France and the United States, laces from Germany, France, England and Switzerland. The imported laces are bought through foreign jobbers in New York and Philadelphia. They are becoming so expensive, however, that the United States is developing its own product. The hosiery comes principally from Germany and the United States. All the articles in the notion department are from our country, except the needles, which are from England.

The second floor is the most popular of all for there can be found anything from a lovely spangled evening dress and a wonderful velvet coat with a big fur collar down to very

modest bedroom slippers for milady's boudoir, all ready to wear. This is not only the department which has the most customers but it is also the most profitable, for women must have pretty clothes.

Rugs, cretonnes, wicker porch furniture, nifty little shirt-waist boxes and a pleasant rest-room are so arranged on the third floor that one feels warm and comfortable there even on the most blustery day. Some facts about the rugs are very interesting; the best Oriental ones represent infinite pains. Sometimes the Turkish, Persian, Chinese, Indian and Japanese people spend as long as from one to three years, getting the dyes just right and tying the knots so they will be beautiful and strong. The French Wilton rugs do not come from France but are made in Philadelphia. They get their name from a Frenchman who came to this country and invented the loom on which they are woven. Most of the domestic rugs are made in the New England States. The wool from which they are made is imported from northern China and Russia because it is cold there and the wool grows longer than in warmer countries.

The basement is a popular and interesting place because it contains such a variety of pretty and useful things and all sorts of toys, too. There are American made toys, cut glass, silverware, pottery and tinware. There are also pretty baskets and hand-painted vases from Japan and dishes from China. Although Gushards still have some toys which were made in Germany, American made ones are much more substantial.

The firm ships goods to all parts of Illinois, but to no other foreign country except China.

It is a splendid store and people of Decatur always feel that anything bought at Gushard's is of the best quality.

THE H. S. GEBHART DRY GOODS COMPANY

Junior High School, Room 10.

In 1896 Mr. H. S. Gebhart founded the Gebhart Dry Goods Store on North Water Street in the eleven hundred block. In November, 1910, the store was moved to 259-261 North Water Street.

Gebhart's occupy three floors and the basement, which covers a floor space of about twenty thousand square feet. The building is of brick trimmed in stone. The front of the store are show windows where up-to-date articles and materials are displayed. The company employs one hundred and twenty-one clerks. I like to go in the store because all the clerks are mannerly and ready to wait on me.

On going into the store I found the first floor divided into departments. The most popular is the notion department, except on Saturday nights, when hosiery and underwear are in greatest demand.

The silks come from Patterson, New Jersey, and silk mills in Philadelphia; woolen goods are made in Philadelphia and other eastern cities. Wash goods come from New York and Boston and southern gingham from South Carolina. Gebhart's buy these materials through their jobbers or directly from the factories. I found that the laces are made in France, Switzerland and the United States; that most of the neckwear and finest linen handkerchiefs come from Ireland, but that Madeira linens and embroidered handkerchiefs are made in the Philippine and Madeira Islands.

At the glove counter I found that the best grade of gloves is the French kid made in France. Kid gloves are made in Austria, Switzerland and cape-skin gloves come from Cape Colony, Africa, and are bought from foreign jobbers in New York.

Some of the perfumes and toilet articles are made here in the United States, but some of the best ones come from France. Pictorial Review patterns, which are made in

New York, San Francisco and Chicago, are sold by the Gebhart store.

On the second floor I found the "ready-to-wear" clothing for women and children. In the millinery department are the latest style hats which come trimmed and untrimmed from eastern cities. The cloaks and suits are bought in New York, Cleveland, Chicago and Philadelphia. The women's waists and other ready-to-wear garments also come from eastern cities.

I found Gebhart's had a large stock of shoes which are bought in St. Louis, Chicago and Boston. Some of the heavy soled ones are bought from Germany, but the best shoes in regard to style and workmanship are made in the United States. There are more shoe jobbing houses in St. Louis and Chicago than in any other city of the United States.

On the third floor are the curtains, cretonnes and wall-paper. Brussels net is made in France, Belgium and England; madras in Scotland and cretonnes in England, and are bought by Gebhart's in Boston. Filet nets come from Philadelphia.

Rugs are made in the United States, England and France. Grass rugs are from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Inlaid linoleums come from England, while printed linoleums are made in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Shade cloths are made in St. Louis and Chicago. Wall papers come from New York, New Jersey and Boston.

The firm, in general, receives its goods from all parts of the United States. Things that come from foreign countries are bought from wholesalers in eastern cities. Gebhart's send goods to all parts of the state, especially to places within a radius of one hundred miles.

The honesty and energy of the company, linked to a desire to deal fairly with the public, have contributed to make the Gebhart Dry Goods Company the fastest growing store in Decatur.

THE STEWART DRY GOODS COMPANY

The Stewart Dry Goods Company was established in March, 1897, by W. A. Stewart, J. J. Maloney, and E. A. Meeker. It was incorporated under the same men in May, 1897.

The store is located at 227-235 North Water Street. The building which it occupies is a very good looking one, modern in all respects. It has three floors and a basement, a total of 33,000 square feet of floor space.

The Stewart Dry Goods Company employs about one hundred persons regularly and adds from fifteen to twenty extra clerks during the holidays. Their business is to give their best service to the public who patronize the store and they seem always to be ready to do just this thing.

The store is divided into thirty departments. The most important departments on the first floor are: dry goods, gloves, hosiery, toilet goods and notions. The second floor holds the most important, as well as the most profitable department in the store—the millinery. On this same floor may be found everything needed for the baby, as well as suits, coats, dresses, furs, waists, etc. The third floor is devoted to house furnishing such as rugs, curtains, and draperies, and in the basement may be found the toys, the china, and the kitchen furnishings.

Many of the departments of the Stewart Dry Goods Company are supplied from the mills and factories in the United States, but one may find silks from Japan, gloves from France, linens from Ireland, and toilet preparations from France while shopping on the first floor. The millinery department is supplied indirectly from Paris and directly from New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Cleveland. Some of the braids used in the making of their unusually pretty hats have come from Belgium, from Italy, or from Japan. The better velvets and the exquisite little velvet flowers have come from France. This department carries three of the best makes of hats: The Gage, The

Vogue, and The Phipps hats. They have found that their evening hats are the most popular, so their trimmers have become especially well qualified in the art of making the bright attractive evening hat, and as a result this department has become the most popular of its kind in Decatur. A stranger, shopping in our city, soon learns to go to Stewart's for her hat, where quality and style are so successfully combined.

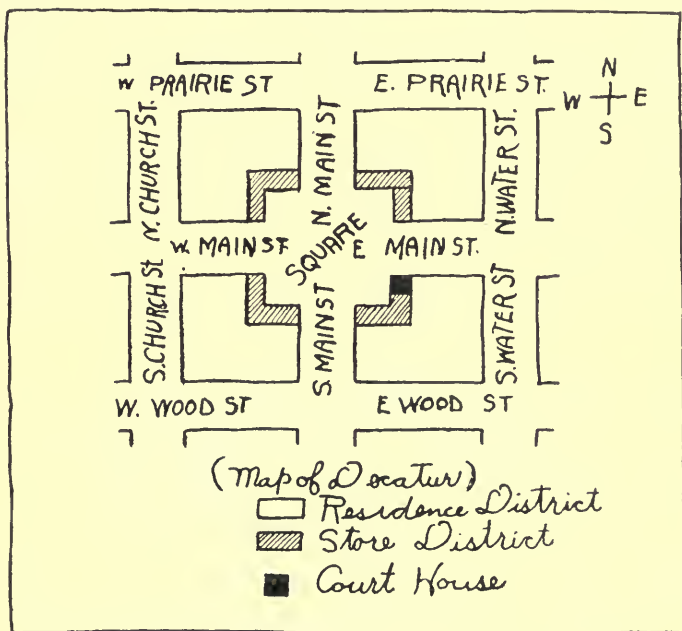
The Stewart Dry Goods Company do considerably more than one half million dollars' worth of business during the year. They sell to all towns within a fifty-mile radius of Decatur, to western states such as Idaho, and have sent goods to missionaries of Japan and China, who are their regular customers and who buy enough muslin, sheeting, etc., to last them for at least seven years.

To learn even as few facts as we have outlined here concerning the Stewart Dry Goods Company makes one realize why they have become one of the most popular department stores in Decatur.

CHAPTER IX

“EARLY HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT OF DECATUR”—1829 TO 1911

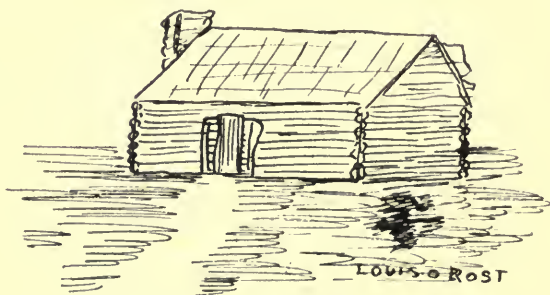
Taken from “Past and Present of Macon County.”—The town of Decatur was laid off in lots after the form of Shelbyville, as ordered by the court, by Benjamin R. Austin, county surveyor of Macon County. The old town of Decatur consisted of twenty acres bounded by Prairie Street on the north, Water Street on the east, Wood Street on the south and Church Street on the west. It was divided by a main street extending east and west known as East and West Main, and a main street extending north and south, known as North and South Main Street. The land upon which the commissioners located the seat of justice was, by the act creating the county, donated to the county.



The first court house was built of logs and the second was built of brick. West Drug Store at present inhabits the place. The stairs which were on the outside were removed.

The same act ordered that a sale of lots take place in the town of Decatur, in this county, on the 10th day of July, 1829, on the following terms: A credit of twelve months will be given, and note with approved security will be required, and that the clerk of this court will be required to advertise the sale in the paper printed in Vandalia until the day of the sale.

The settlers built their cabins of logs; the size of these cabins was from fourteen to twenty feet. They were usually built in the following manner: First large logs were laid in position as sills; on these were placed strong sleepers, and on the sleepers were laid rough-hewed puncheons which were to serve as floors. The logs were then built up until the proper height of the eaves was reached; then on the ends of the buildings were placed poles, longer than the end logs which projected some eighteen inches over the side, and were called the butting-pole sleepers; on the projecting ends of these were placed the butting-poles, which served to give the lines to the first row of clapboards. These were, as a matter of course, split, and as the gables of the cabin were built up, were so laid as to lap a third of the length. They were often kept in place by the weight of a heavy



The Log Schoolhouse.

—From a drawing by W. H. Tyler Co.

pole laid parallel with the ridge pole across the roof. The cracks in the cabin were filled with mud or a form of mortar.

The little log schoolhouse was where the Millikin Bank now stands. Richard Oglesby, the President of Decatur in 1836, lived in a cabin and studied by the fireside.

Taken from "City Code, Decatur, 1886."—In 1836 the first officers were elected under a township government.

1836; Richard Oglesby became President under the new form of government; William T. Crissey, G. R. White, William Webb, Thomas Cowan, H. M. Gorin, Henry Butler, Landy Harrel; Andrew Love, clerk; James Carter and William Webb, constables. In 1838 the town of Decatur added a treasurer, an assessor and two supervisors. In 1856 Decatur changed the township government to a city government and adopted a charter which was approved of February 21, 1867.

In 1856 John P. Post became mayor under the new government. The aldermen which were elected from the different wards of the city were: 1st ward, Frank Priest; 2nd ward, E. O. Smith; 3rd ward, J. R. Gorin and S. P. Ohr; 4th ward, J. J. Ballentine and H. Taylor; the clerk and attorney was C. C. Post.

This form of government lasted from 1856 till 1911, when it was changed to the commission form of government.

There were many important improvements during this time, the new and up-to-date water works was built during this time; many streets were paved which had been neglected for many years.

THE COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The commission form of government was adopted in Decatur in April, 1911.

To adopt such form of government it is necessary for the petitioners to present the petition to the judge of the county court of the county in which the city or village is located. It is the duty of the judge to submit the proposition to a special city or village election.

After the petition for the adoption has been correctly filed the judge must give notice of the election at least ten days, posting at least five copies of such notice in each ward of the city. The election is held under the laws in force usually. If a majority of votes are cast in favor of the adoption, it is adopted. All proceedings of the election must be recorded.

The commission form of government differs from the previous form used in Decatur, in having commissioners instead of aldermen. Under the commission form of government the officers consists of the mayor and four commissioners. The commissioners are not elected from wards but are elected at large. In the election there are no political parties. Officers are elected every four years. The election takes place on the third Tuesday of April and the successful candidates take up their duties on the first Monday of May.

At their first regular meeting the commissioners of each separate department are elected to their particular department by a majority vote of the council. Some other officers elected by the council are: City clerk, corporation counsel, city attorney, assistant city attorney, city treasurer and library trustees. Before assuming their duties officers are required to take the oath of office and also to file bonds.

The council has the right, power and authority to appoint and discharge the heads of all principal departments subordinate to the departments.

Three members of the council constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of three members is necessary to adopt any motion, resolution or ordinance, or to pass any measure. Every "Yea" and "Nay" is called and recorded and every motion or ordinance is copied and read before voted upon. All commissioners and the mayor when present at any meeting vote.

The mayor is the president and presides over the council. He is superintendent of all departments. He reports to the council for its actions matters requiring attention in any department. The commissioner of accounts and

finances is the vice-president of the council, and if the mayor is absent the vice-president takes the president's chair at the meeting and presides.

The following are the rules for the government of the City Council of the City of Decatur:

1. Meetings—10:00 A. M. every Monday and Thursday.

2. The council shall convene promptly at the hours fixed for meetings, and during the session the members of the council must not be disturbed by calls over the telephone, or for private business conversations.

3. All petitions or communications addressed to the council shall as far as possible be reduced to writing and filed with the clerk of the council, who will report them to the next meeting of the council, when they will be referred to the proper department for investigation and report.

4. All bills and claims, including payrolls, should first be approved by the superintendent of the department originating the item, and in addition thereto, shall be approved by the superintendent of accounts and finances before they are submitted to the council for allowance.

5. All recommendations, suggestions or other matter from the various city officials should first be submitted to the superintendent of the department of said official and receive his approval thereof before same is read to the council.

6. The hours 9:30 to 11:00 A. M. each day shall be observed by the commissioners as office hours, at which time the public generally will find the commissioners at headquarters and submit any matters to them, except such days as the council shall hold its regular meetings. The regular meetings are held on the first Monday after the mayor and commissioners have entered upon their respective office and after that at least once a week. The council shall provide by ordinance for the holding of regular meetings, and special meetings may be called from time to time by the mayor or two commissioners upon giving not less than twenty-four hours notice of such a meeting. All meet-

ings of the council whether special or regular shall be open to the public.

7. The following shall be the order of business of council meetings:

1. Roll call.
2. Reading of the Journal.
3. Report from Department of Public Affairs.
4. Report from Department of Accounts and Finances.
5. Report from Department of Public Health and Safety.
6. Report from Department of Streets and Public Improvements.
7. Report from Department of Public Property.
8. Communications from Board of Local Improvements.
9. Petitions and Communications.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Adjournment.

8. Roberts' "Rules of Order," except when otherwise provided by law, shall govern on all questions of parliamentary law at the meetings of the council.

9. These rules may be altered, amended or temporarily suspended at any time by a vote of the council.

10. Whenever a regular meeting day of the city council falls upon a national or state holiday, the meeting shall be held the day following.

The present commissioners are:

CITY DEPARTMENT

Charles M. Borchers..... Mayor
(Department of Public Affairs)

John F. Mattes..... Commissioner
(Department of Public Health and Safety)

James W. Montgomery..... Commissioner
(Department of Accounts and Finances)

Harry Ruthrauff	Commissioner (Department of Public Property)
Alexander Van Praag	Commissioner (Department of Streets and Public Improvements)
Ralph J. Monroe	Corporation Counsel

THE MAYOR

Commissioner of Public Affairs

The mayor of the city, who is elected to a term of office of four years, is also the Commissioner of Public Affairs.

Before entering upon his duties after his election to office the mayor is required to take the oath of office and to file a bond, as are all the commissioners.

The mayor has his office at the municipal building, and devotes such time to the duties of his office as a faithful discharge of the same may require.

The mayor presides at all meetings of the council. He has no power to veto any measure, ordinance, and measure passed by council must be signed by mayor, or by two commissioners, and be recorded before the same is in force. The commissioner of accounts and finance is vice-president of the council, and in case of vacancy or inability of the mayor he performs the duties of mayor.

The Department of Public Affairs is divided into two parts, the Police Department and the Parks Department.

The officers of the Police Department are as follows: Chief, assistant chief, day desk sergeant, night desk sergeant, clerk, driver, plain clothesman, weight and measures inspector and patrolmen. The Police Department has as its equipment one automobile, police patrol, one five-passenger automobile, two motor bicycles, six police call boxes, complete finger print outfit, police officer equipment, garage, city jail and one main police headquarters and one sub-station.

The officers of the Parks Department are assistant superintendent of parks, four custodians, florist and workmen.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Department of Public Health and Safety is the department in which, through great efforts, many lives are saved. The council of the city determines the powers and duties of such department. The commissioner at the head of this department is vested with the right, power and authority to appoint and discharge the heads of all principal departments subordinate to the respective department of which he is commissioner. The commissioner of public health and safety is required to devote at least six hours daily to the performance of his official duties. Any cases reported to the Department of Public Health and Safety, endangering the health of the city, are attended to by the commissioner of that department. He also has the power to make all necessary examinations of any house, plant or building. He can perform all acts necessary to carry and give full force and effect to the Department of Public Health and Safety.

The Department of Public Health and Safety is made up of a commissioner of that department, health officer, sanitary officer, milk inspector, superintendent child's welfare home, chief of Fire Department, building inspector, and the city scavenger. The visiting nurses' association consists of a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. The medical staff consists of three doctors. The nurses' staff is made up of one supervising nurse and three visiting nurses. In his report of last year Mr. Mattes says: "The position of the Department of Public Health and Safety is one which goes rapidly through all varieties of experiences that make life worth living. Each day has its joys, sorrows, praises, "kicks," hopes, despondencies, victories, minor defeats and smiles; each one carrying its own peculiar impetus for work, work, work."

One of the helpful things achieved by this department in the year of 1919 was the establishment of a "Child's Welfare Department." At the head of this department a superintendent was appointed. The commissioner assures us

that the success of this department cannot be measured. That all cases reported to him, regardless of color or creed, are carefully investigated and cared for or turned over to some proper agency or authority to be properly cared for. Mr. Mattes also says, "In my report I further suggest that to increase the efficiency of the Department of Health, a full time physician should be appointed; a much larger appropriation for the city administration is needed. The sick of the city should be supplied with the following: A modern contagious disease hospital, a municipal system of garbage collection and disposal, a full time physician, and a public comfort station. In this way we would be able to get rid of most of our 'catching diseases.'"

Those whose duty is to look after the milk situation have been doing great work in securing proper milk for the sick and for the emergency hospital during the influenza epidemic. Milk Inspector Hugh S. Baker says, "During the shortage of milk, we were instrumental in procuring the supply where shortage was most acute. We also made arrangements to have pure milk shipped in during hard times." It is the duty of the milk inspector to inspect dairies, herds, and make all necessary inspections of stores, restaurants and milk depots, and to test the milk.

The Fire Department of the city has four engine houses; engine house No. 1 is located at 156 W. Main Street, No. 2 at 1265 N. Main Street, No. 3 at 550 N. Morgan Street. No. 4 is located at 1154 E. Locust Street. The No. 1 house is going to be vacated and the Fire Department will move to a new and modern building to be erected on the lot owned by the city at the corner of Franklin and Wood streets. The Fire Department is made up of a chief, assistant chief, captain, mechanic, lieutenant and sixteen hosemen. In the report of the Fire Department Chief Devore says: "The personal character of the department is excellent and the discipline is good. The superintendent of the water works and his assistants have been very prompt in furnishing fire pressure for the city; they have cooperated beautifully with this department during this year."

It is the duty of the building inspector to issue permits to build houses, factories and the like. He is to inspect any things that are supposed to be in an unsanitary condition. He also inspects and condemns flues. Only twice during the year of 1919 were there penalties imposed. Once for the neglect to take out a permit and once for interference with the inspector in charge of his duties. The need for more dwellings is so urgent that we look for a large number of dwellings to be built this year. There should be a deeper interest in getting an "own your home" movement started here, as too many who could buy a home live in rented houses. Mr. Cope, the building inspector, says, "We have only a small number of bad housings, but owing to the scarcity of dwellings we suffered these to go over until the close of the war; now these will be remedied."

We all should consider the many benefits afforded the city by the efficient handling of work such as is assigned to the commissioner of the Department of Public Health and Safety.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

The Department of Accounts and Finances consists of the commissioner of this department and also city clerk, city comptroller, water rates clerk and city treasurer. It is the business of this department to keep a record of the city finances.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Property has charge of the water and light department of the city.

The Water Department—There are 7,332 water meters to be read. The city is divided into three districts and each district is ready every three months. It is the duty of one man to read meters. There is also a man called the "roust-about" who helps read the meters when it is impossible for

one man to do all of the work. There are 722 fire hydrants that have to be looked after and kept in good order. The pumping plant is located on the north bank of the Sangamon River. In this department there are four men, plumbing inspector, assistant water inspector, meter reader and a general utility man. Last year expenses for the water department were \$16,180. In the plumbing department there is one man whose duty it is to look after the plumbing in the city. Every piece of plumbing that is done in Decatur is inspected by the plumbing inspector to see that it is in a sanitary condition, and that no disease may occur from imperfect plumbing. Inspection fees amount to about \$100 a month, for every time a pipe is inspected a small fee is charged. The following men make up the plumbing, filtering and pumping departments: 1 chief engineer, 3 assistants, 3 firemen, 3 wipers and 3 coalers, who have eight hour shifts. It now costs \$56,870 to run the pumping and filtering plants because they pay the salaries of twenty-one men and other expenses also out of this amount. Decatur has seventy miles of cast iron water mains from four to twenty inch and 7,470 service meters installed and maintained by the consumers.

Light Department—In this department there are many street lamps that have to be taken care of. Besides these there are many ornamental lamps that are kept burning at night. This year the Department of Public Property was given \$27,310 to run the light department.

There are five men in this department who look after lights night and day. Fifteen years ago one man in this department did this work himself, but now it takes many men to do it.

Certainly there is no department in our city government on which a greater responsibility rests than of the Department of Public Property. A careful supervision of the water system, plumbing, etc., is one of the most important factors in the preservation of the health of the city.

DEPARTMENT OF STREETS AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements has charge of streets, alleys, boulevards, trees, as well as the work on sewers. He has the appointment of the superintendent of streets, sewer inspectors and city engineers.

The Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements must see that all streets that are to be paved, and are being paved, are up to specifications.

The city yard offices are located in an immense concrete building on Broadway Street, which is shared by the Department of Public Property. Here are kept the city's flushers, sprinklers, scrapers, sweepers, graders, mowers, wagons, plows, drags, a brick testing machine, a fully equipped blacksmith shop, a sewer construction, repair outfit, and all the necessary tools and accessories that are needed. All of these implements are kept under cover when not in use.

The Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements sees to and makes a report of the cleaning of paved streets, sidewalks and crossings, cleaning crossings, cleaning of streets and alleys, repairing of paved streets, and the maintaining of sewers and to the public improvements—the cutting of dead and dangerous trees and repairing of sidewalks, etc.

To this department falls much of the responsibility of making "A Beautiful Decatur."

Some of us were more fortunate in securing a greater amount of information on the topics assigned to us than were others, and for that reason some departments have a more complete account of the work done by their departments than that done by other departments. A few topics which might have been given more in detail were given only briefly because they are taken up in other chapters of this book.





MARION PIERCE- 88

CHAPTER X

DECATUR BEAUTIFUL

Although Decatur is known as an industrial center it may be well to stop for a moment to consider some of its beauty spots. It is interesting to know that Decatur was one of the first cities to realize its short comings along the attractive lines and therefore set to work to plan some method of taxation which would enable it to establish and maintain such resorts. The comfort, health and happiness of the people of a city are advanced by some place of outing which is within easy reach of the people. Natural beauty as seen in the sky, clouds and streams is unseen by laboring classes who hurry back and forth to the shop day after day, therefore beauty must be brought to them through the medium of public attractions.

Probably the parks deserve first attention. The well regulated city of today plans its parks as carefully and as systematically as it does its school houses, court houses, sidewalks and streets. The most popular park is Fairview. It consists of fifty acres of land, located one and one-half miles west of the transfer house, and received its name, "Fairview," from Mrs. E. J. Martin. The center of the park is a natural amphitheater of fifteen or twenty acres, bordered by thick well-shaped trees and hills. In the center of this space is a large handsome pavilion made of pressed brick. It is used for public gatherings such as dances, picnics, addresses, band concerts, church meetings, and community sings. The beautiful smooth red shale drives which now surround the pavilion were at one time the old race tracks when the park was known as the State and County Fair Grounds. On either side of these drives are long rows of magnolia, elm, oak, poplar, sycamore, locust, mulberry and willow trees. The trees are unusually beautiful, especially in autumn when their leaves turn to gold, red and yellow. Some of the flower beds are found out in the

open spaces. In early spring groups of children are seen picking wild flowers and admiring the gorgeous colored tulips. Later in summer geraniums, asters, tube roses, daffodils, take the place of the spring flowers. Last of all come the flowers of autumn which consist of salvia and hyacinths. Not far to the north of the flower beds are the bears, rabbits and fowls, while to the southeast are the deer. Many children stand around the bears' cage to feed them scraps, cracker-jacks and peanuts. The deer are so tame that they will eat from one's hand. The apparatus which attracts large numbers of children is located in the northeastern part. Here we find swings, teeter-totters, slides, turning poles and merry-go-rounds. On the hills are tennis courts, while in the center are the baseball diamonds. Lincoln's cabin which was Decatur's first court house, stands on a high hill in the southwestern part of the park. During the past year the cabin has been turned over to the Boy Scouts, who have remodeled it extensively. This historic spot is open to the public, who may stop and inspect the furnishing, which is very unique. There are three main entrances leading into the park which may be reached by street cars or interurbans. After considering the most beautiful park we will now turn our attention to the oldest, which is Central Park.

Central Park is a track of one and three-fourths acres, commonly called a square. In 1837 this square was donated to Decatur for the location of a railroad depot, but later was made into a park. Well kept trees, abundant grass, refrigerated fountains and ornamented flower beds please the eye and attract large groups of people on hot summer days. A magnificent bronze monument has been erected in memory of the Civil War veterans and a large memorial tablet for our Macon County soldiers and nurses who served in the World War.

Lincoln Park was formerly the city dump and gravel pit. As the town grew up around it so many complaints were heard that the city finally decided to convert it into a pleasure resort, which is much appreciated by the people

in the south. The park has been enlarged until it now contains twenty-two acres.

Torrence Park is situated at the end of East Grand Avenue and was given its name in honor of Mr. Torrence, the overseer of the parks. It contains a pavilion, a wading pond, a baseball diamond and apparatus, which is enjoyed by the east end children.

East Park was laid out in 1888, that is the half of it included in East Boulevard. The park contains one and three-fourths acres.

The largest park of all is Nelson. It extends over eighty-eight acres, situated not far from the city limits on the east, and reminds us of the "forest primeval." It is a common sight to see campers squatting about the fire preparing food or roasting weiners and marshmallows. The golf links, a comparatively new attraction, are located in this park. They are the property of the Country Club and are said by experts to be the finest in the state.

Among the most attractive and inspiring places in Decatur are the crests. These are comparatively few, as it is a typical city on plains, broken now and then by a few slight elevations. The two best known are Oak and Sunset. These are really one, separated only by the railroad. One cannot gaze on the stately oak trees which make residential sections practically forest parks without being reminded of fairyland. Sunset Crest is a new addition and may in the future become as popular as Oak Crest.

Three of the most beautiful cemeteries are Fairlawn, Greenwood and Calvary. Greenwood is a plot of ground containing forty acres, situated in the southern part of the city near the river. Its natural beauty and stillness make it a very desirable burial ground. Fairlawn has all the beauties of a well planned cemetery. One of the most noted things in the cemetery is the Sunken Garden. It is several feet deep and contains gorgeous flowers.

One of the finest things which has been accomplished in this city is the boulevards in the east end. When the people return from work too tired to go to the parks they may sit

and admire the blooming flowers and grass which have been planted on the boulevards.

There are so many attractive residences in Decatur that it is impossible to enumerate them; however, we must mention those in Powers Lane, Lincoln Place, Park Place, Oak Crest and the Mound. Scattered here and there are enough homes of such extraordinary beauty that if placed together with sufficient space for lawns would form a spot unsurpassed in the middle west.

For flowers that bloom about our feet
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bees;
For all things fair we hear or see;
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shades of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

—R. W. E.



LOUISE DENZ 8A '20



MAYNARD LIPE 8A
'20

CHAPTER XI

THE FUTURE OF DECATUR

Decatur of the future aims to become a city with an orderly form of government, a city with a low death rate, a city of comfort and educational advantages wherein children may be well reared, a city growing commercially to insure prosperity, and a city where the majority of citizens realize their debt to city, state and nation by being the best individuals they know how to be.

The late census of 1919 shows Decatur's population to be 48,592. Because of the steady growth of the past we have reason to expect that her population will reach 150,000 within the next thirty years.

Decatur's area at the close of 1919 was eight square miles and at her present rate of growth and with a population of 150,000 in 1950 we predict that it will be between fifteen and twenty square miles.

A great per cent of the people of Decatur own their own homes and with the expansion in business and industry more people will own their homes in the future. The new residential districts will probably be in the southeastern part of the city, extending what is now known as Riverside addition. A second addition will be in the northwestern part near the Macon County Hospital. A third addition will be west of the city—north and east of West Main Street following the Springfield road.

The following paragraphs show the proposed future growth of the different business firms and factories. These mentioned stand as types of their kind and the data was secured from the various heads or owners of the concerns.

The Decatur Drug Company, which is the largest of its kind in Illinois outside of the city of Chicago, will grow in the next five years. They will soon be having a larger and a better building. Their products will be increased as will the territory into which they send their supplies.

The lumber companies are expecting to increase greatly in the future. They also are turning out new products such as asphalt, roofing wood, finishing material, and will manufacture the same goods in different styles. The demand for the goods is so great at home that very little is shipped to other states. They share their profit by increasing wages and giving bonuses.

The Danzeisen Company is a large meat packing concern. The refrigerator will soon be enlarged on account of the growing business. For this same reason the slaughtering department will be added to.

The Gushard Company have leased the 'Wait Building for a long term of years and are planning to use five floors for their store. This will make it one of the finest stores in the state outside of the city of Chicago. Linn & Scruggs, already a high class store, will improve their stock in the future.

The Faries Manufacturing Company, which now has a capital stock of \$500,000, will enlarge their plant by building a \$30,000 building, 150 by 132 feet, one story high. They ship goods to foreign countries.

A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company in six months will consume 50,000 bushels of corn per day, which is twice the amount they were consuming in December, 1919. Now they employ 2,000 workmen and will increase the number to 4,000, paying them higher wages. Their manufactured products are syrups, glucose, sugar, fancy starches, a substitute for lard, corn oil, and candy, all of which they ship to foreign countries.

In ten years the Decatur Malleable Iron Works expect to increase its capital stock from \$250,000 to \$500,000, increasing wages of employes. They will not ship goods to foreign markets, but will ship more goods to the same markets in the United States.

The Leader Iron Works have let a contract for a new building costing \$160,000, with equipment costing \$40,000. The building will be two blocks long and eighty feet wide.

and fireproof. It is nationally known for the water systems which it builds for farm and city homes, and for a number of specialties in heavy sheet steel made especially for oil producing territory. When the new tank shop is completed the plant will have a capacity for the employment of from 500 to 1,000 men and from present indications of business offered the company will run its maximum rate for some time.

The Williams Sealing Corporation was incorporated with a capital stock of \$150,000. North of their present site they own enough land on which to build five such buildings as their present factory. The daily output now is 144,000 sealing caps per day. Besides shipping to United States markets they ship to the following foreign markets: Iceland, Greenland, India, Australia, Italy, Japan, Hawaii and Cuba.

The Decatur Coffin Company's business will grow as the city grows. They will continue to turn out the same products they manufacture at the present and will not put any other products on the market. The Coffin Company does not have trade with foreign countries. It deals in business only with the many cities in the United States. This is quite large and offers all the business that they can handle at the present time. The capital stock is eighty thousand dollars, which will be increased in the next five or ten years. The Coffin Company has a bonus system unlike those of the other firms in the city. They offer insurance policies to their employes for continual service and in this way protect the men and reward them at the same time. If they were to increase their business to such an extent that they could they would reward their employes accordingly.

The H. Mueller Manufacturing Company was originally incorporated for \$68,000, but by reinvesting the earnings the value of the business has grown to be more than \$2,000,000, no additional stock having been issued. They do not now have a plan for sharing profits, but are on the outlook for a satisfactory plan of doing so. They now have what is called a "Twenty Year Service Reward," whereby

an employe who has served faithfully and continually for twenty consecutive years receives the sum of \$500.

The Decatur Bridge Works has a large territory which it supplies with its products, but in the future it expects to have a larger territory.

The capital stock will increase. Excess profits will be shared by increase of wages and by bonuses.

The Flint Eaton and Chemical Company's business has doubled during the last five years and they expect it to do as well in the next five years. Their present factory site is already too small to take care of their business properly, and they are planning the erection of a new factory which they think will be built in the next five years. In their business they are always creating new products, adding a good many to their old line each year. While they will be opening up new territories, they will be adding new goods to their line. In all probability they will not ship to foreign countries, although their goods go into practically every state in the Union. Their present authorized capital is \$35,000, of which \$32,000 is outstanding, with \$3,000 being carried as treasury stock. Their capital stock will probably be increased in the future. The bulk of their goods is sold through traveling salesmen who travel on a commission and bonus basis. Salaries in the factories are usually increased according to the length of service with the company.

The Polar Ice Company is Decatur's largest ice plant. When this plant was first established it only produced ice; but today it produces ice, ice cream, distilled water, candies and handles fuel. In the future they expect to produce other products. The company now has one hundred thousand dollars appropriated for improvements on its plant. The concern ships its products to different states of the Union. They expect to have even a larger market in the future.

The Decatur Brick Company is the only brick company in Decatur. Its earnings have been very slight on account of the war, but they have every reason to think it will grow in the next fifteen years. They will be turning out new

products and will ship old goods also to new places. They ship goods to Canada. The value of the capital stock now, 1920, is \$80,000. Even when the earnings were low they gave a bonus and shared accordingly with their men.

The U. S. Wire Mat Company, which started with a capital of \$20,000, is now worth \$100,000. This company has been producing wire mats, fly swatters and parts of machinery. It is planning to build a new building and is making machinery which will be used in manufacturing new products. At present this company is producing annually 4,000,000 fly swatters, but expects to increase this output to 8,000,000 within the next five years. Ten models are being manufactured, with patents pending on several more. These products reach almost all countries of the world and soon will be sent to all.

With the increase in the number of pieces of first and second class mail and of parcel post, the government will enlarge the post office and the number of carriers accordingly.

Decatur's Public Library is growing in every department. It is so splendidly organized and equipped with reference books that the University of Illinois sends her student library classes once each year to study the organization.

Decatur has long felt the need of a Coliseum. A special committee of the Association of Commerce found and recommended a location for this building. It is proposed to have it finished by 1921.

The filter plant has a capacity of 9,000,000 gallons and it will be increased to 13,000,000 gallons. The new dam will be placed 300 feet west of the Macon County bridge and will cost about \$300,000. Its purpose is to form a lake to increase Decatur's water supply.

On account of the increasing number of manufactured products in Decatur, the means of transportation are growing. The railroads have been advancing with the growth of the city. The street car service, also, is improving. Eleven new cars are ready for use. About five new cars

will be added each year. Probably two miles of track will be laid within the next five years. One new car barn is almost completed; two others will be built within a few years. A new power house will probably be placed along the river in the near future.

Decatur's institutions will grow as well as its factories. The Macon County Hospital will increase its capacity, the nurses' home will be completed and in use, and a tubercular and a contagious ward will be added. The Pythian Home will extend its work. The Anna B. Millikin Home in the next few years expects to finish off the fourth floor of their building for boys. This will accommodate about twenty boys.

The work of the City Health Department is steadily growing. Eight thousand three hundred forty-eight dollars and ninety-eight cents was put aside one year for the work, while the next year ten thousand dollars was appropriated.

Within the past two years four new clinics have been established, one for tuberculosis, one for baby welfare, another for crippled children, and one for social hygiene. The latter has treated three thousand cases. Two years ago but one visiting nurse was employed, while at present there are four; besides a child welfare nurse, a maternity nurse and a school nurse, in order to better care for the public health. This department is planning to have a medical examination of all school children, more school nurses, a special school for defectives, an open air school for tubercular children, and a pathological laboratory.

Decatur seems destined to become a great city. The industrial future of the city is assured. Public school buildings are becoming more and more thought of as community centers. Decatur is planning to improve her schools and school grounds. Roach School is to have a new addition north of the present structure in 1920. As soon as this is finished, Jackson is to have a new twelve-room building with auditorium and gymnasium. Five properties west of Gastman School are being moved to give the needed relief in playground space. The acquisition of eight lots has been

recommended for the new Junior High School. This acquisition for the new Junior High School will make possible the creation of the finest school plant in the city. Another new Junior High School is planned to be erected on the present French School site. A new eight-room building along with a new additional strip of ground giving the entire block for school purposes is planned for Jasper School. Additions are to be made to Warren, Dennis, Riverside, Ullrich, Oakland and Oglesby school buildings and playgrounds. Improvements are to be made to the High School and new courses, including agriculture, are to be offered. The realization of all of these recommendations will give Decatur a beautifully balanced school system.

James Millikin University now has an attendance of 548 students. In ten or fifteen years it expects to have 2,000 students. An endowment of two million dollars is being provided. This endowment fund is needed to pay the members of its faculty a better salary. The institution is planning to build in the near future a dormitory for women, a dormitory for men, a science hall, a chapel and a library. The board are planning to enlarge and beautify the campus. No plans for increasing the course of study are being made, as it is considered the course satisfies the requests of the students.

Decatur's two business colleges, Brown's and Lyon's, see a great future before them. The number of students has increased three hundred per cent in the last twenty years. It has increased twenty per cent. By no means does the supply equal the demand. As the number of students increases they are planning to improve their departments. New subjects are introduced as time changes. The colleges are supplied with up-to-date machines.

As a conclusion follows a quotation from Secretary R. J. Holmes. This prediction of Decatur's industrial growth was given to the Chamber of Commerce.

The industrial growth of Decatur, during the year 1919, is a cause of satisfaction. A recent survey shows the estimated value of manufactured products, the approximate

amount of wages paid, and the number of persons employed, in 1919, compared with the same estimates for 1918, as follows:

	1918	1919
Value of manufactures.....	\$21,989,777.30	\$34,229,258.51
Annual pay roll	7,643,486.44	11,827,081.67
Number of employes.....	8,358	10,291
Vol. of wholesale business...	8,129,432.50	12,313,867.20
Volume of retail business....	6,100,000.00	9,250,000.00

This comparison indicates an increase over 1918, in the value of manufactured products of 62%, an increase of 55% in the amount of wages paid, and an increase of 23% in the number of persons employed. Because of the steady growth of established industries and because of the assuring prospects for a number of new industries who are now considering Decatur as a location, the industrial growth of Decatur may be expected to continue at a rate equal to any that has been reached in the past.



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